

Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope

Robert Taylor

Exhibit Series

Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Compiler's Notes

The disk requires Adobe Reader, which can be obtained free at www.adobe.com.

This Award Winning exhibit of Early Cape Postal History by Dr. Robert Taylor, has been transferred to C/D by scanning into Omnipage Pro 12, an Optical Character Recognition Program, and then saved as Adobe Acrobat 5 'pdf' files, 1 frame/file.

The point of going through the OCR step was twofold. First, to bring the file size down to a manageable size, some 12 MB instead of 900 MB, and also to enable searching with Acrobat's search feature.

It does, however, have some drawbacks. The OCR operation introduces some typographical errors of its own, and some of these have crept through. It also does not completely accurately reproduce type style and formatting. Thus the text appears slightly different, and has some errors. Hopefully not misleading. These errors are the fault of the Compiler.

Some text was difficult to recognize for the OCR program, and these areas have been retained as (unsearchable) images.

The original exhibit was on cream paper, and this background color has been lost in the areas that were not retained as images.

ALL of the philatelic material has been retained as direct scanned images to avoid distortion. On these images, the cream paper color can be seen.

The base CD is of special archival quality, but careful storage is suggested.

The Table of Contents was produced by the Compiler, who takes responsibility for it.

Bob Hisey, Sebring FL. 12004

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Early Postal Services at the Cape of Good Hope 1653 - 1853



18th. Century Map Cape of Good Hope

Background

This exhibit shows the rates, routes and markings used to develop a postal system for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope between 1653 and 1853. Commissioned by the Dutch East India Company, Jan van Riebeck founded the colony in 1652 to service ships of the Company's fleet at midpoint between Holland and the East Indies. Under Dutch control by the Dutch East India Company for 140 years, no official postal service existed until the opening of the post office at Cape Town in 1792. Company correspondence was carried to and from Cape Town by ships' masters on Company ships. Private overseas correspondence entered and left the colony by private arrangement, including remuneration, between the sender and the ship's master or crew or a passenger. Inland transmission of mail was also by private arrangement and often carried by a native runner.

In 1791, a delivery charge of 1 skilling per sheet was established for overseas mail and in 1792, the rate was indicated by the VOC handstamp of the Company, the first postal marking. No official rate for inland mail existed.

In 1795, the British took the Colony from the Dutch but services remained unchanged and handstamps were abandoned. Field Comets, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of local magistrates or Landdrosts as subordinate magistrates, began to carry the post in 1798.

The Treaty of Amiens returned the Cape to the Dutch in 1803 and the first postal routes were opened, one between Cape Town and Algoa Bay and one between Simonstown and Cape Town. These routes were also available to the colonists for overseas mail and marked the beginning of an organized postal service. No handstamps were used and the overseas rates remained unchanged.

In 1806, the British again took the Cape from the Dutch and expanded postal routes and established inland and overseas rates. The use of handstamps was reintroduced and expanded and by 1853 when adhesive stamps were introduced, a well functioning postal service was in place.

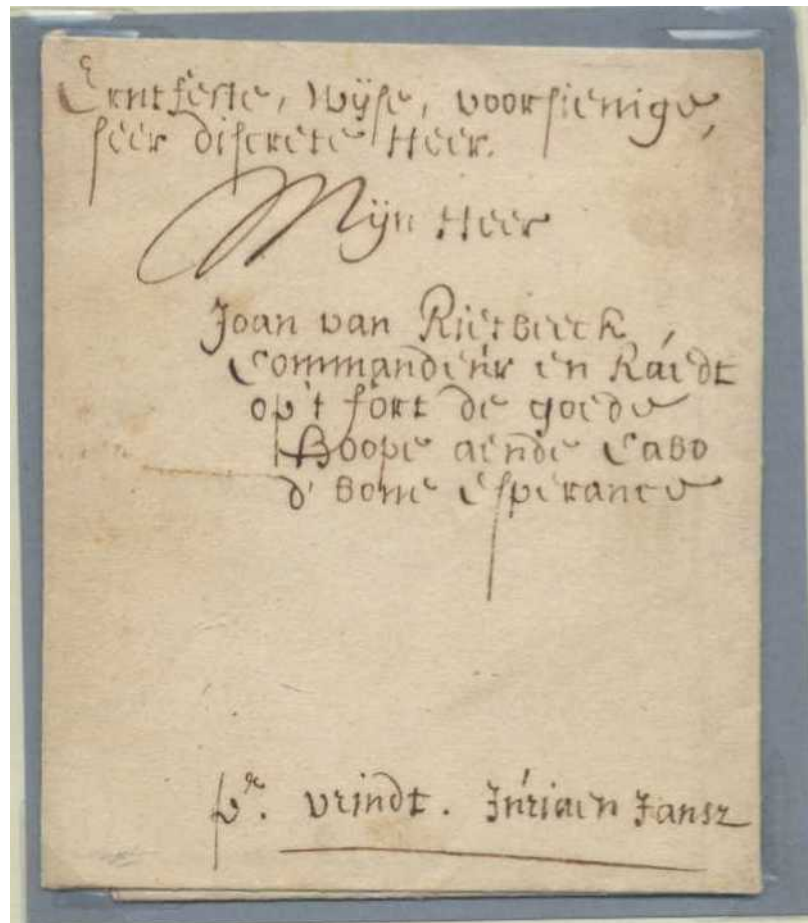
Exhibit Plan.

In so far as possible, the presentation is chronological through the four administrations. Some aspects such as the Field Comets and Forwarding Agents cover the entire period and are treated separately. Items of particular interest or significance are framed.

The Early Years

1652 - 1792

In 1652, Jan van Riebeeck was commissioned by the Dutch East India Company to establish a colony at the Cape of Good Hope to provision its fleet at the half way point between Holland and the East Indies. For the next 140 years, no official postal service existed save for Company correspondence carried by Masters of the Company's ships.



Joan van Riebeeck, founder and first commander of Cape colony.

"Honourable, wise, discerning, most discreet sir"

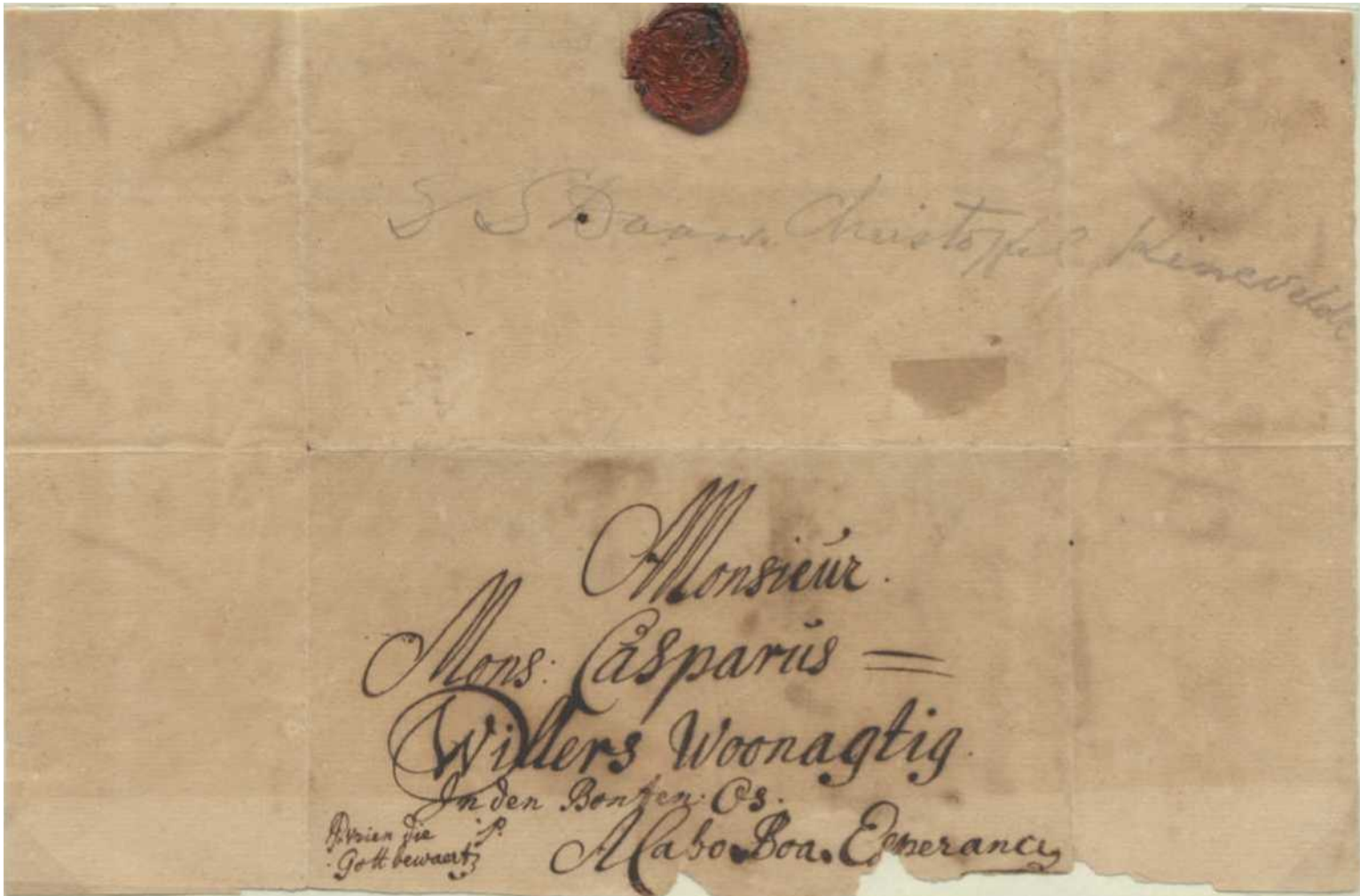
Myn herr-

Joan van Riebeeck, Commander of Council
At the Fort of Good Hope at the Cape
of Good Hope.

The Early Years

ca: 1700

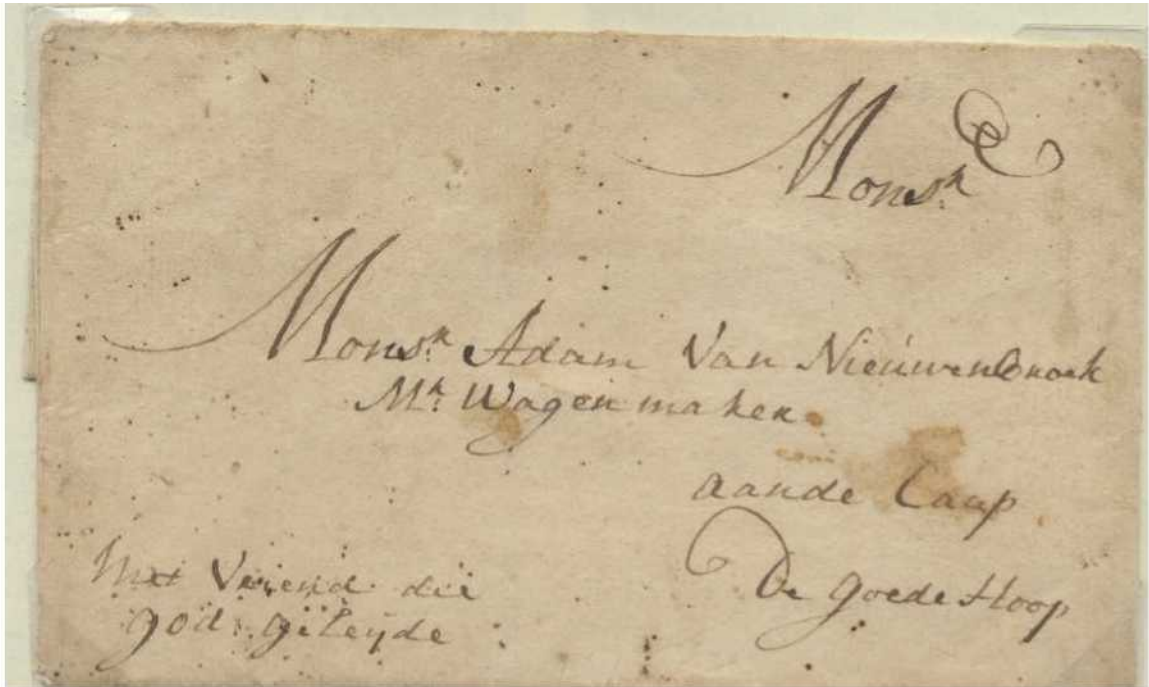
Dutch immigrants or "Free Burghers" established farms to provide foodstuffs for the Company ships but had to make their own arrangements for the transmission of correspondence. On overseas correspondence coming into the colony, the sender made arrangements with the ship's master, a crew member or passenger for delivery to the Cape Colony and, if local, to the addressee for a previously agreed fee. Delivery inland was usually by native runners.



Casper Villers, an early free burgher, established a farm called "Zorgveliet"

The Early Years

To increase chance of delivery, name of ship and its Captain together with talismanic inscription placed in lower left corner.



1710

"Mit Vriende die Gods Gelegde" - With a friend, by God's Grace.



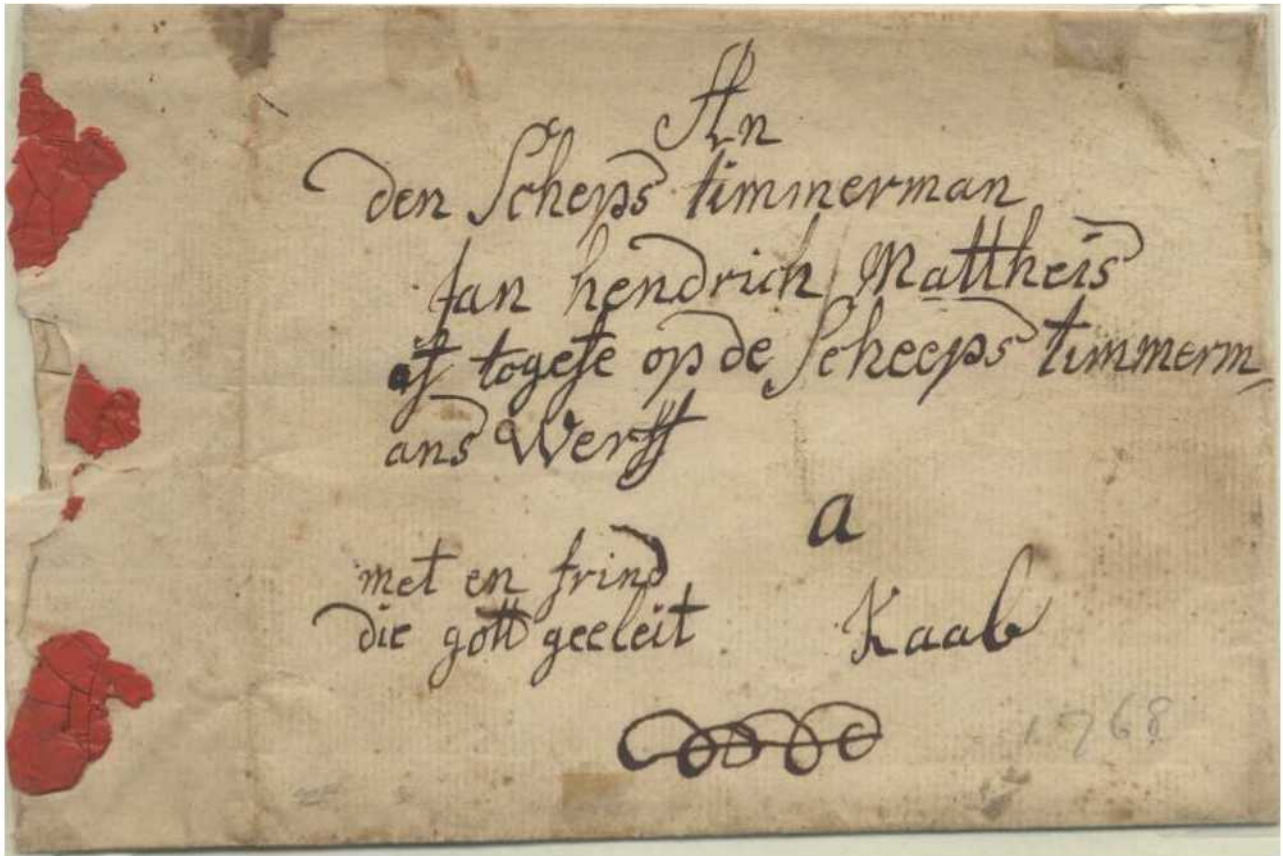
1763

"Carried by the Honourable, heroic Captain T. Boekhoud Commanding the East India Company ship Toorenvliet."

"Die G Gelyde in salvo" - Entrusted to God in Heaven.

Date determined from Dutch East India Company shipping records.

Talismanic inscriptions placed in lower left corner varied in form. "Die gott geleit" - by God's grace. Often abbreviated to D.G.G.



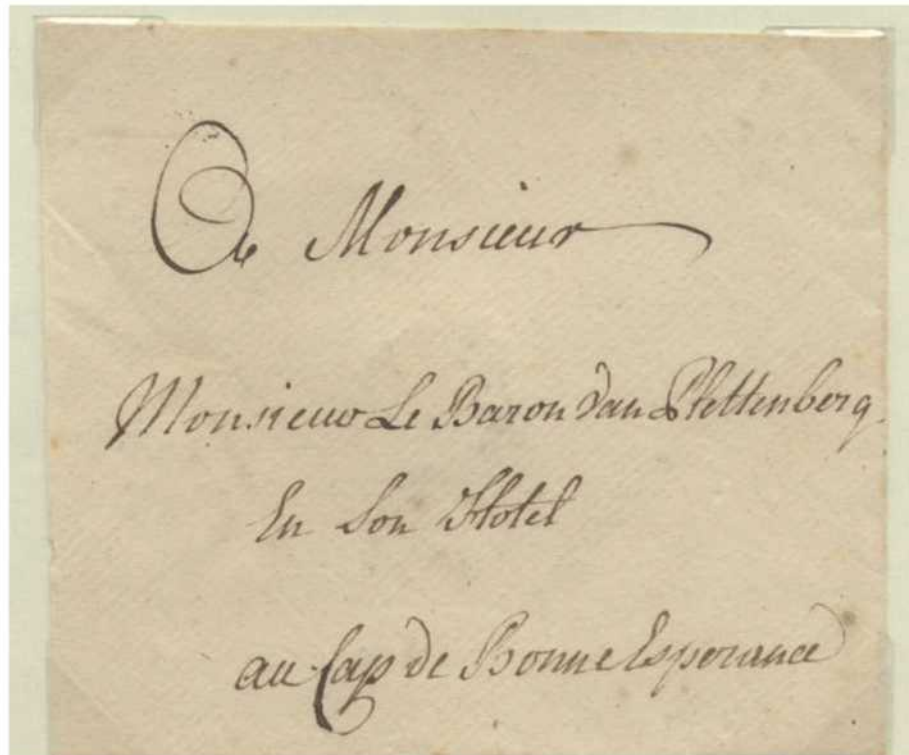
Letter addressed "To the Ship's Carpenter, Jan Hendrick Mattheis at the Ship's carpenter yard - Cape.

Four loops indicate a four sheet letter.

Date of correspondence often entered in pencil on wrapper when contents removed.

The Early Years

The Dutch East India Company, governed by a board of seventeen directors, was solely responsible for the administration of the Cape Colony. The chief executive, known as Commander until 1691 and then as Governor, was appointed by the Directors and much of the official correspondence of this period was directed to the Governors.



Letter posted prior to his appointment in 1771.

Joachim van Plettenberg appointed Acting Governor in 1771 and served as Governor 1774 - 1785.

The Early Years

1784



Carried by East India Co.
ship "Batavier" Abbreviated
talismanic inscription.

The Early Years

Two early letters from Holland carried "by Favor" without the customary talismanic inscription.



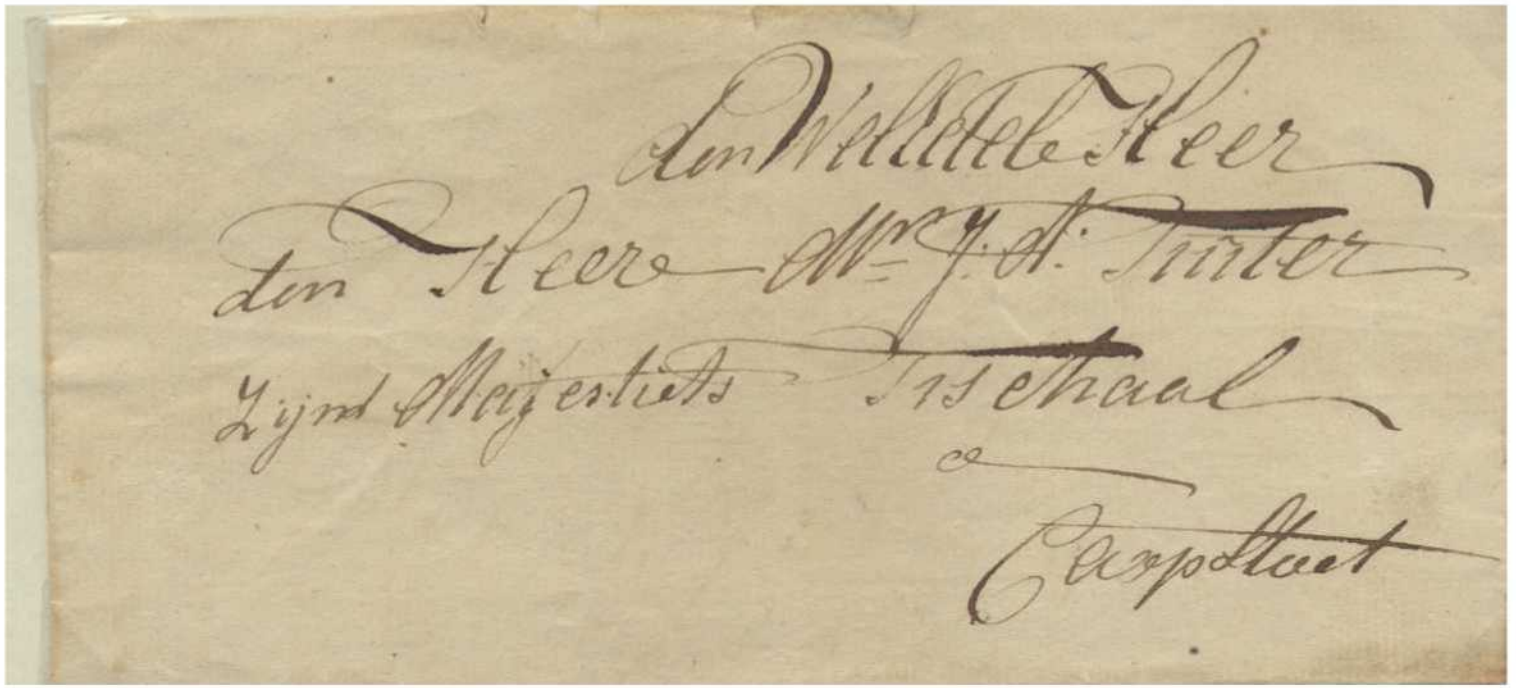
1740



1789

The Early Years

j
Archivists and others removing a letter from its wrapper, commonly noted the date of the letter in pencil on the front or reverse to preserve it. These two examples show the date on the reverse.

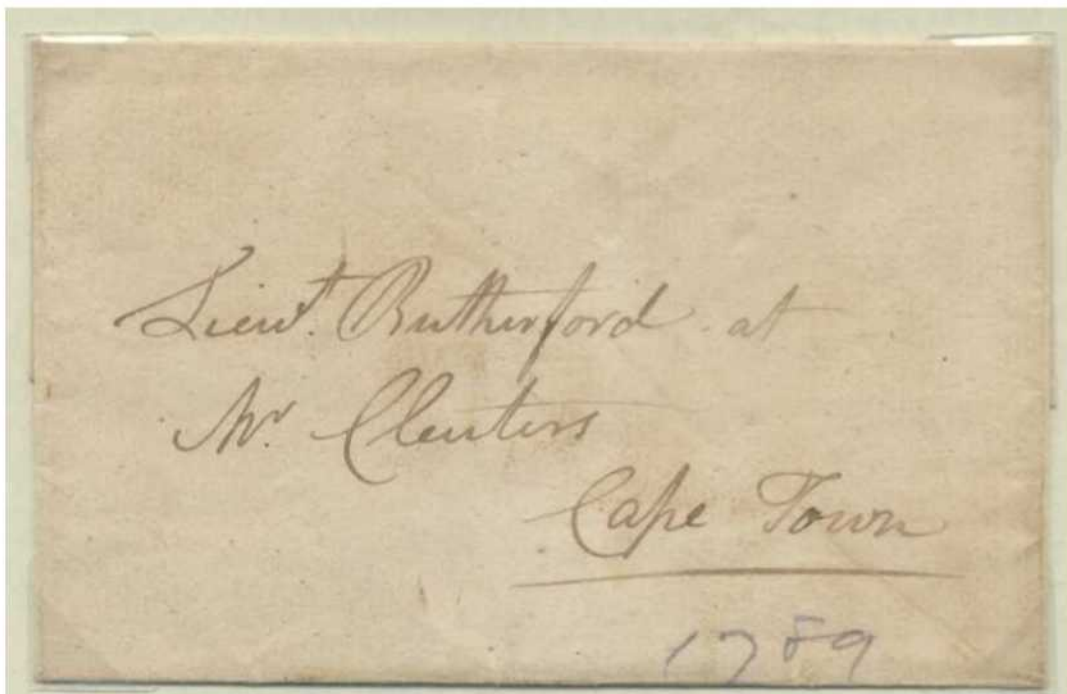


1791



¹⁷⁹⁵ Unofficial correspondence carried "by favor" hence the absent VOC stamp.

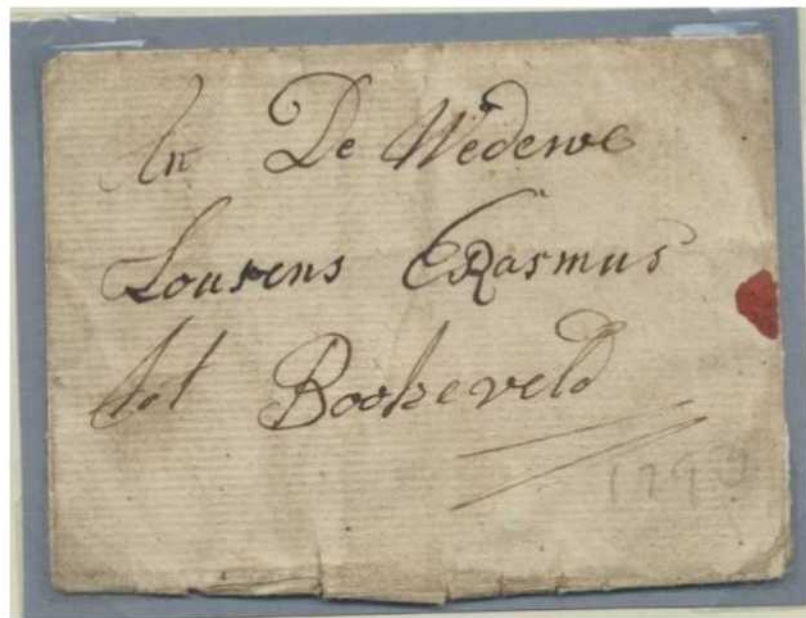
Local letters during this period are very uncommon and those in English more so. The letter has been removed from this wrapper and the date noted in pencil. Delivery by private hand.



Written on the inside of the wrapper: "The gun powder and shot are in your chest".

Briefstok letter.

Inland correspondence carried by native, usually Hottentot, runners. Held aloft in a cleft stick or "briefstok" to protect it from handling or while fording streams.



Ex Baker
Signed: Goldblatt

Remuneration arranged between sender and runner.

On 2 March 1792, Acting Governor Johan Isaac Rhenius signed a proclamation establishing a packet service between Holland, the Cape & East Indies. A post office was opened at Cape Town and service was available to the public for overseas mail. Each piece was required to be stamped, No provision was made for inland delivery.



Letter arrived 3 June 1792
 lacking required VOC
 stamp.

The First Postal Service

1792 - 1795

"VOC" Monogram handstamp of the Dutch East India Company.

Handstamp applied at Company's offices in Holland validating prepayment of 6 stuivers per sheet. Cape postmaster required to collect 8 stuivers per sheet from addressee on delivery.

6 stuivers = 1 skilling.

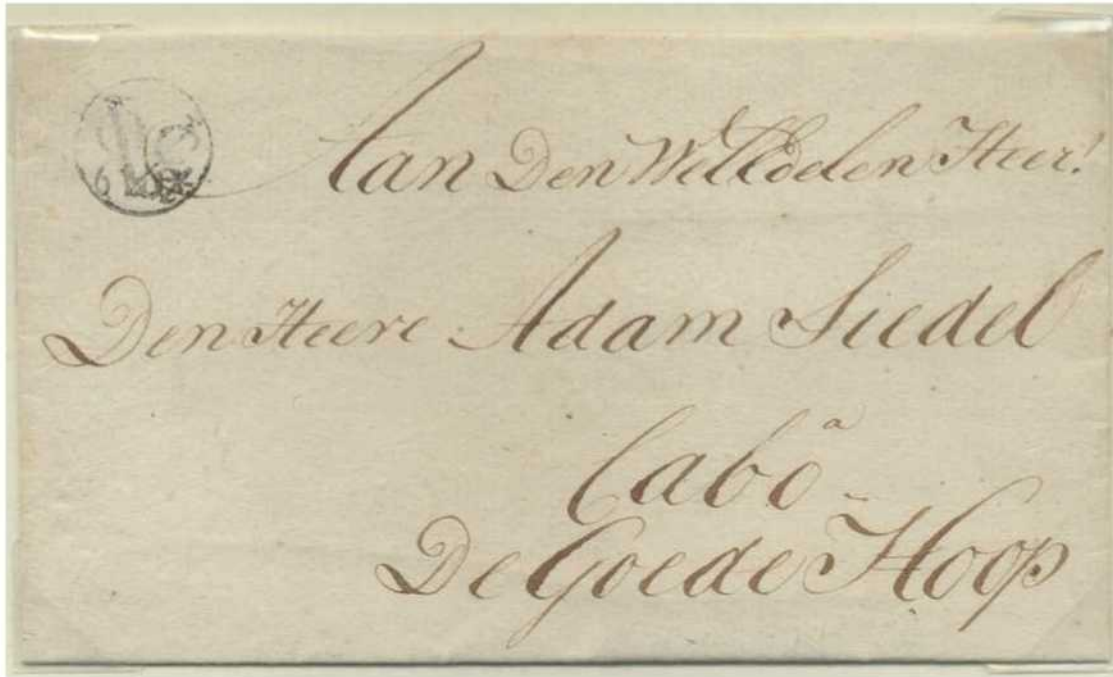


Type 2

Four varieties of handstamp known. Most easily identified by relation of vertical axis of "6" to vertical axis of stamp.

The First Postal Service

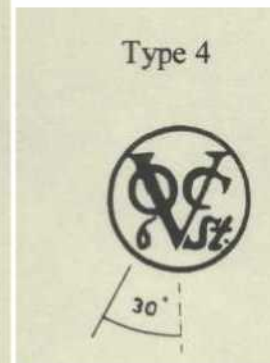
1792 - 1795



Type 3

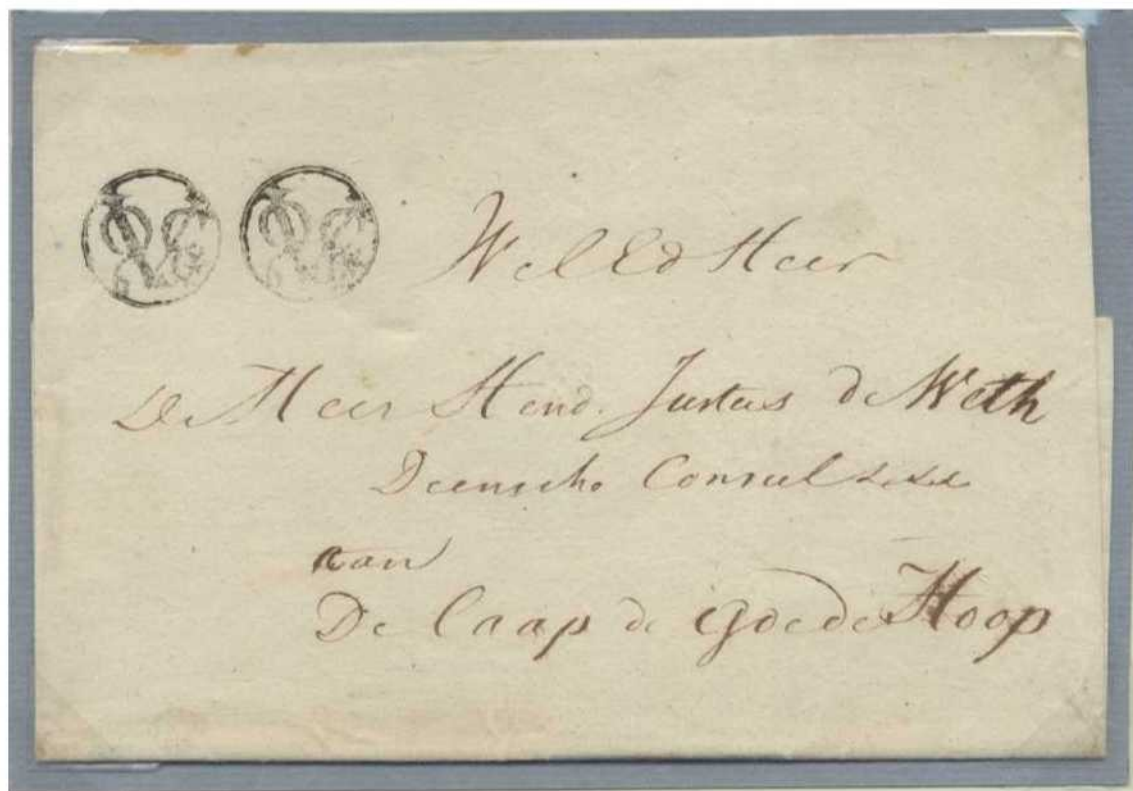


Type 4



The First Postal Service

1792 - 1795

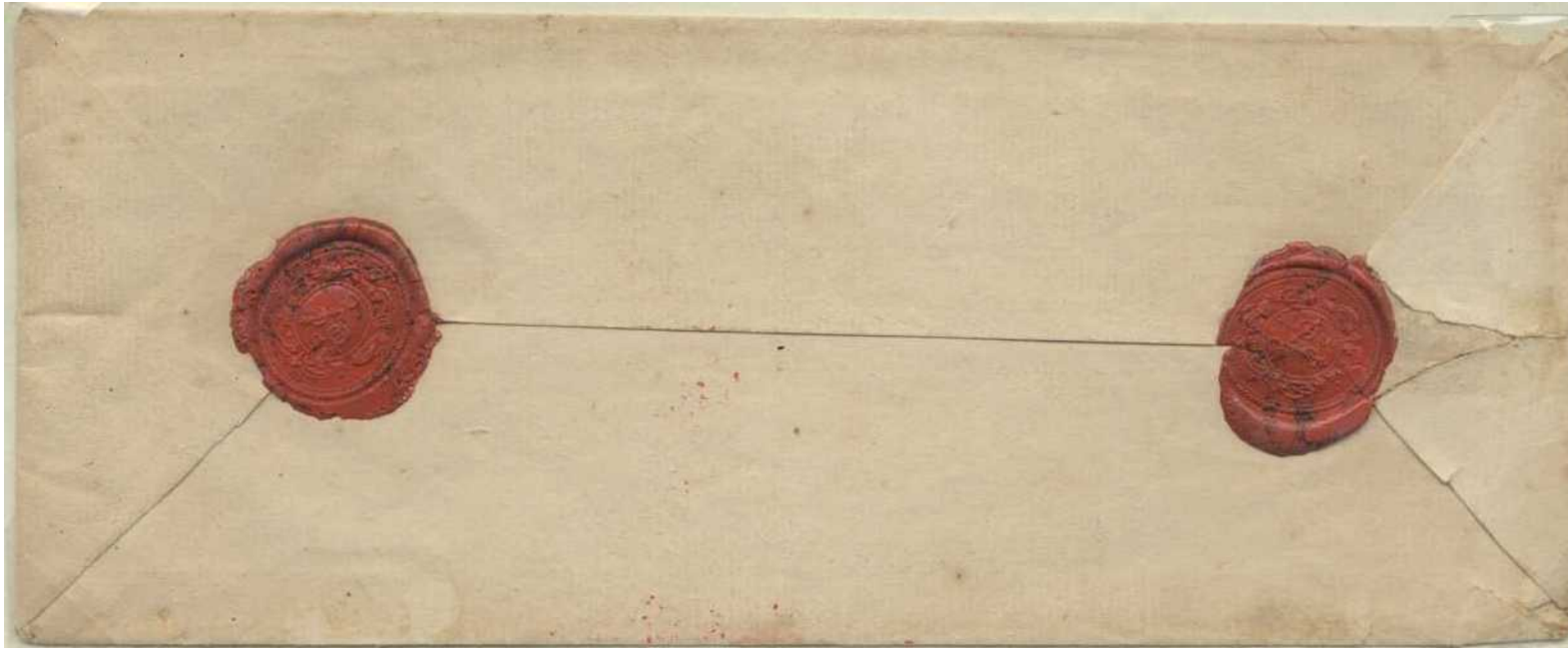


Ex Joseph

Double rate cover - 2 strikes VOC handstamp Type 3 indicating 12 st. prepaid.

Unrecorded VOC Seal

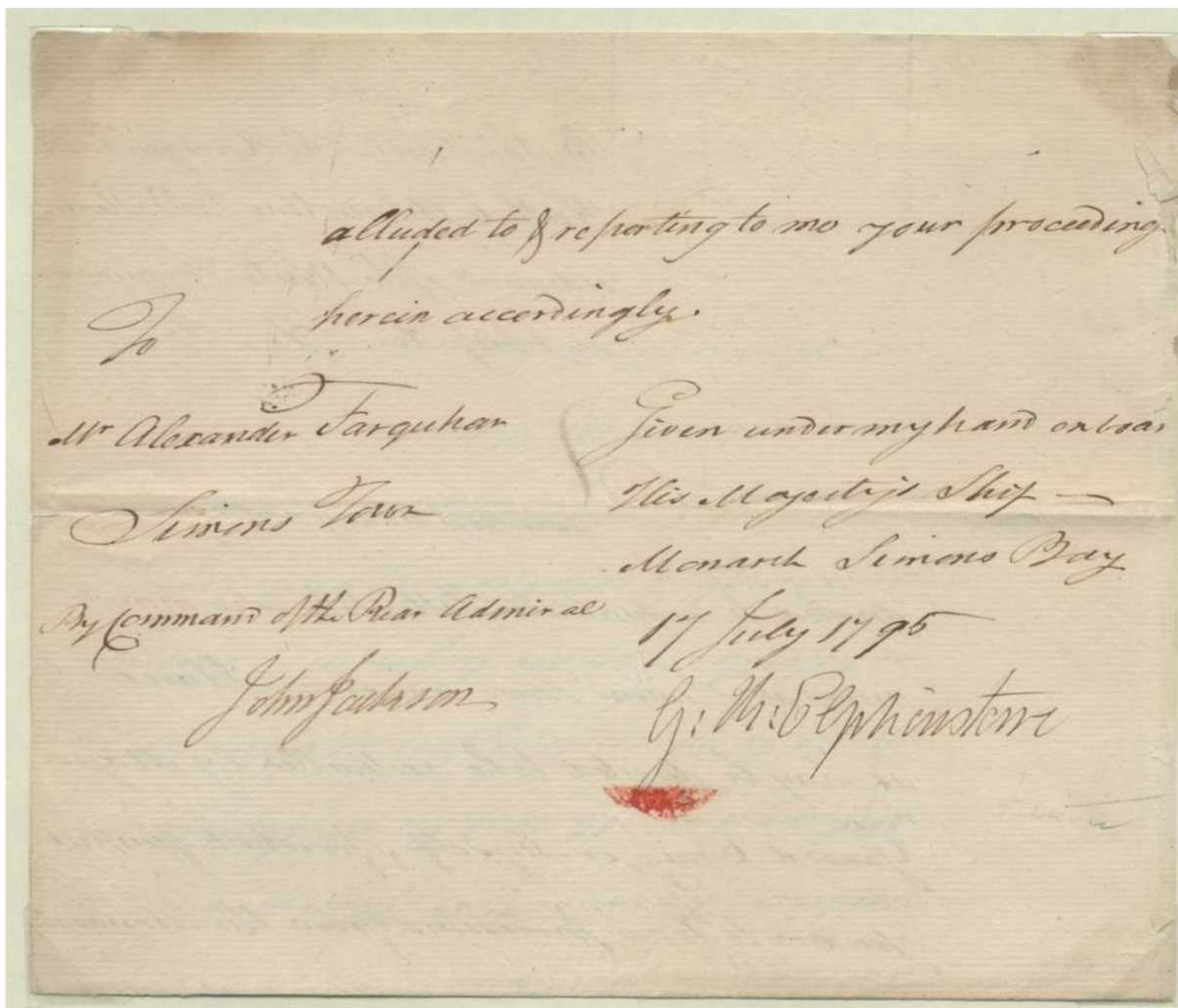
Seal shows the VOC monogram with a "C" added at the base for "Cabo" and an "S" at the top probably indicating "Secretary".



Undated wrapper showing two seals and addressed to "The Governor or in his place the Second Person in command at the Cape of Good Hope."



Letter dated 17 July 1795 from Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone aboard HMS Monarch to Alexander Farquar, Naval Storekeeper at Simonstown. Written by John Jackson, secretary to Elphinstone directing him to take provisions from Monarch's stores to feed Hottentots and slaves arriving in Simonstown during the short campaign which gave control of the Cape Colony to the British on 16 September 1795



Monarch anchored in Simon's Bay. Unrated letter hand delivered by naval personnel as Dutch still in control of Cape.

First British Occupation

1795 - 1803

Cape surrendered to British by Dutch 16 September 1795. Post office reopened 6 March 1798. Letter rate of 1792 remained 6 stuivers or 1 skilling per sheet. No changes in services made and no Cape markings used during this period.



Dispatch date 26 Sept. 97 on reverse.

Rated at London Ship Letter Office:

4d. ship letter rate of 1796 + Id. Shipmaster's gratuity = 5d.

Cursive PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LRE transit stamp uncommon.

First British Occupation

Burgher Senate Stamp

Seal crafted from silver and impressed in wax to seal official correspondence. Used as handstamp to validate official status of letters.



Three examples known.

Burgher Senate of six colonists created by government during first British occupation, replacing the ineffective Dutch Burgher Councillor committee, to represent concerns of the Burghers or colonists to the government. Abolished in 1828 and replaced by English system of local magistrates and justices of the peace.

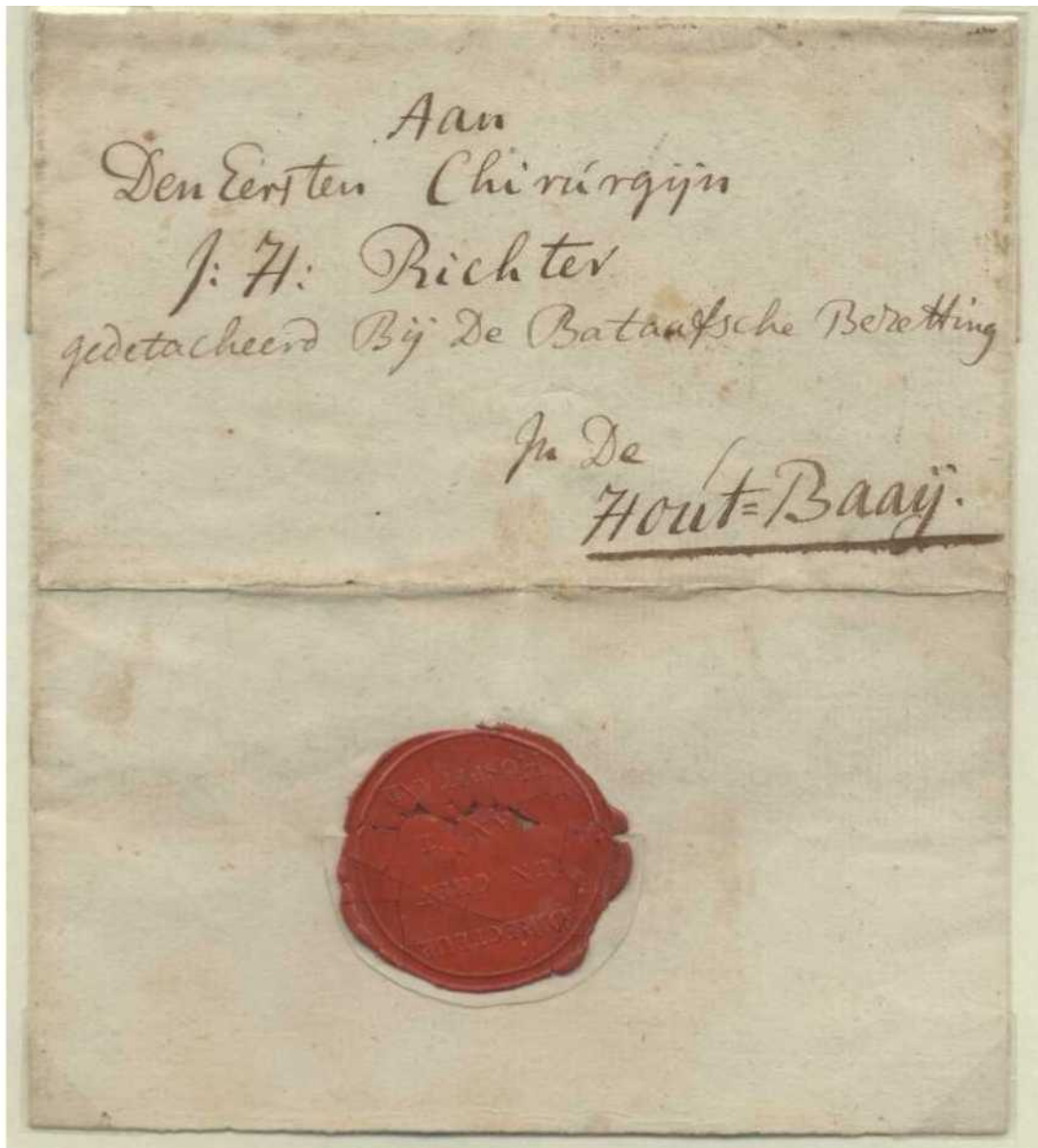
The Batavian Republic

1803 - 1806

Cape Colony returned to Dutch Batavian government by treaty of Amiens in 1803.

No postal markings during this period. Rate remained 6 stuivers or 1 skilling per sheet.

Postal routes - Cape Town - Algoa Bay and Cape Town - Simonstown opened for official and public use.



First Surgeon J.H. Richter attached to Batavian troops at Hout Bay in 1804.

Second British Occupation

1806

Oval Medallion Post Office Letter Stamp.

First English postal handstamp used at the Cape. Brought from England by armed forces retaking Cape Colony from the Dutch in 1806. Used only at Cape Town on inland mail to indicate prepayment of postage on dispatching or claiming mail or to validate official status of correspondence.



Single sheet rates of 1805 on the 3 existing routes.

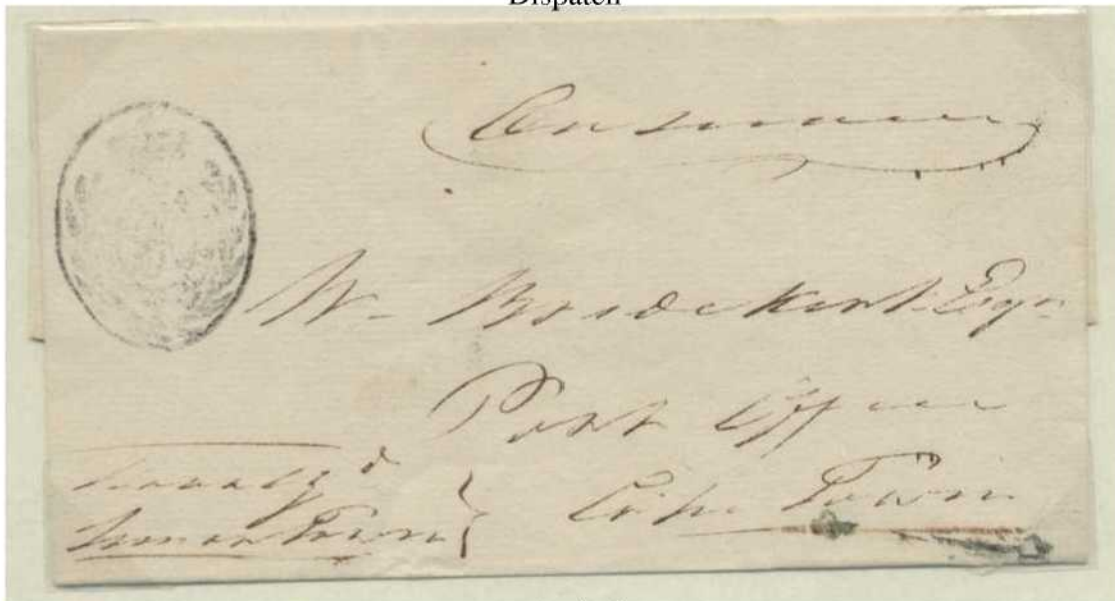
- 1 sk. Cape Town - Stellenbosch or Simonstown.
- 2 sk. Cape Town - Roodezand, Swellendam or Saldanha Bay.
- 4 sk. Cape Town - Graff-Reinet, Algoa Bay, Mossel Bay or Plettenberg Bay.

Second British Occupation

Use as arrival and dispatch stamp between Simonstown and Cape Town.



Dispatch



Arrival

Second British Occupation

Oval Medallion stamp as transit stamp.



Undated wrapper.
Uitenhage - Cape Town - Tulbagh

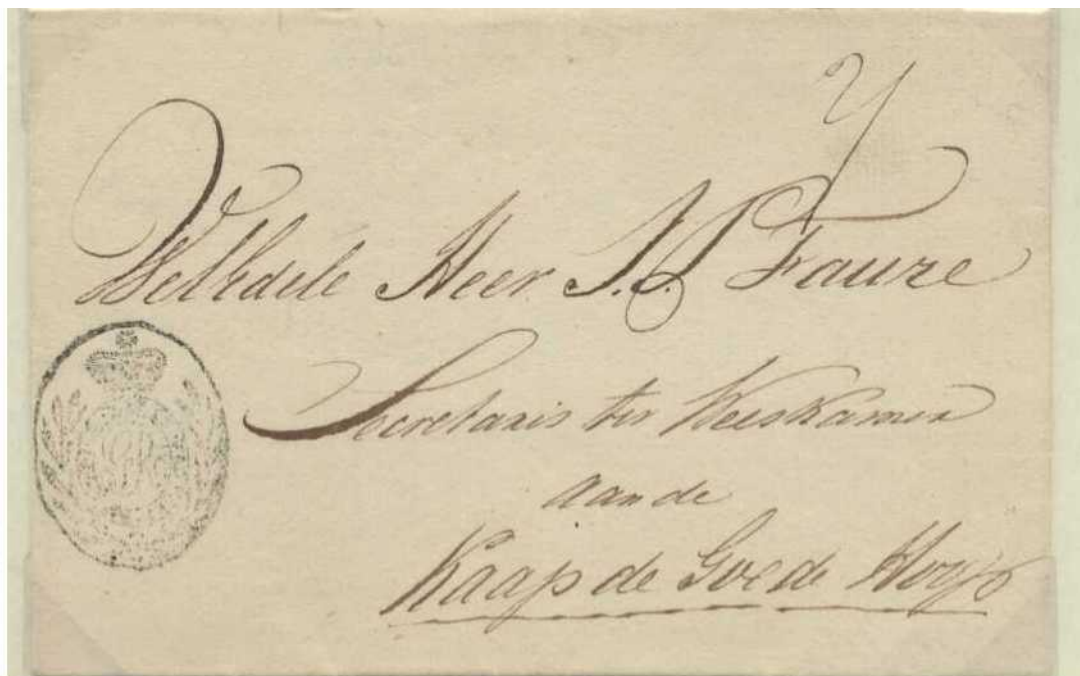
Second British Occupation

Oval Medallion stamp on rated correspondence.



Post Pd. 1 sk.

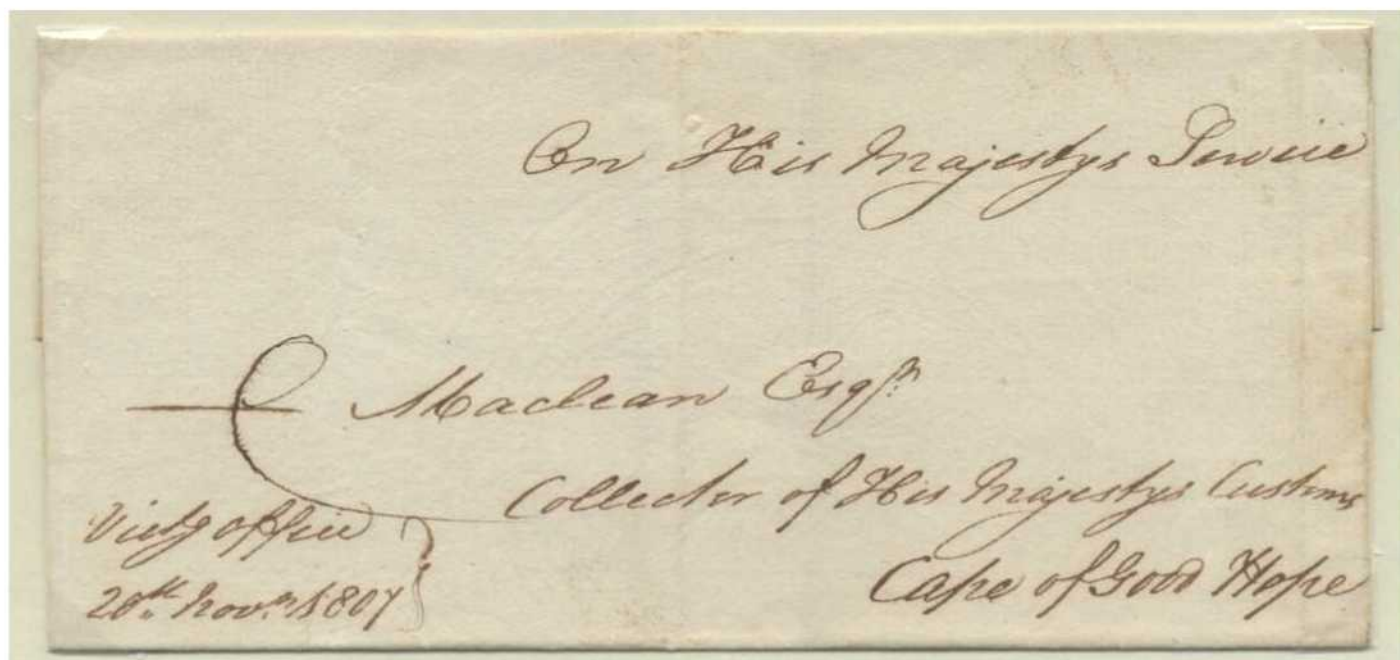
1 sk. single sheet rate of 1816 Cape Town - Simonstown



2 sk. ms.

2 sk. single sheet rate of 1816 Saldanha Bay, Roodezand or Swellendam - Cape Town.

Local Correspondence

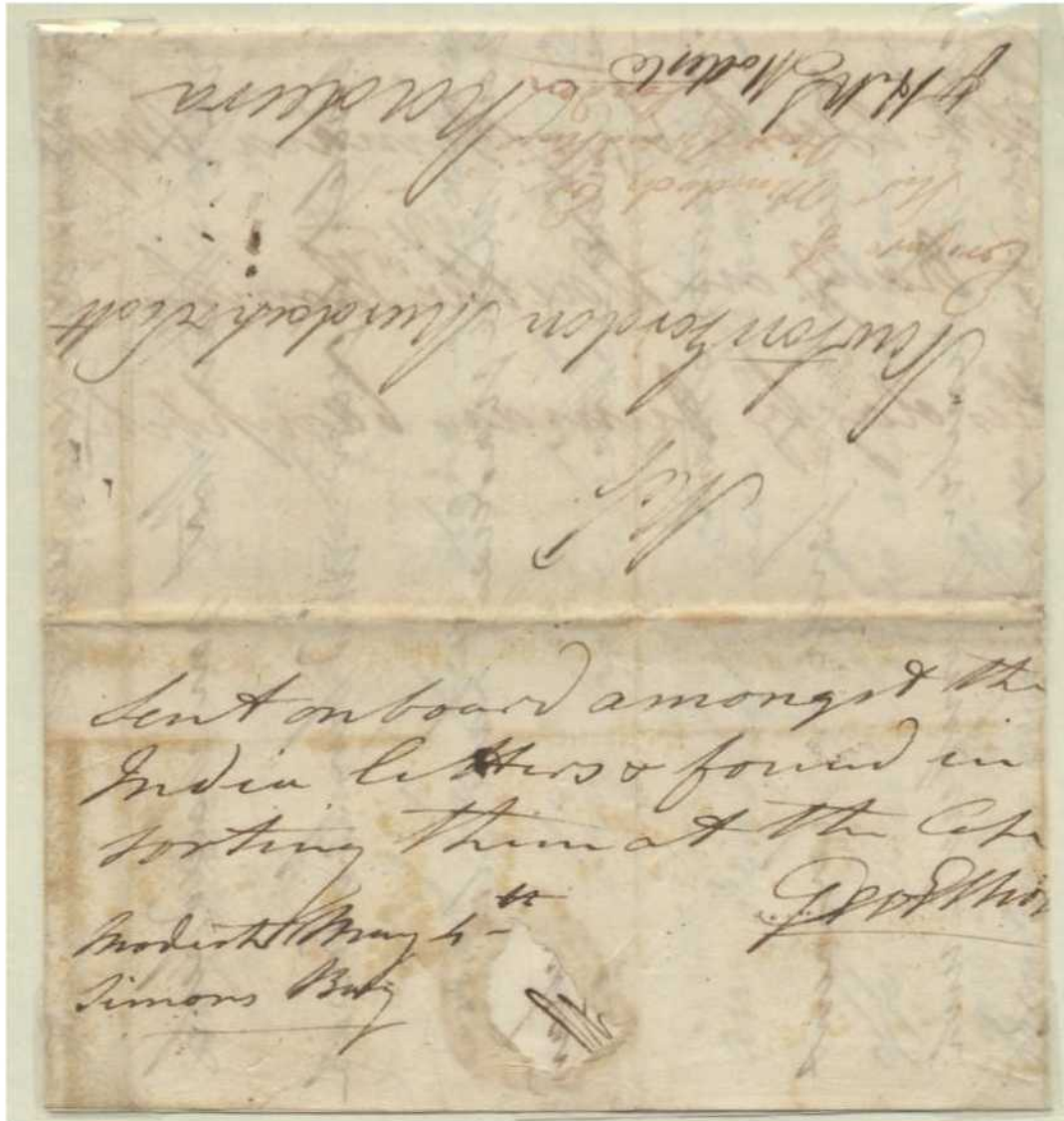


Wrapper from Vendue Office (Office of Public Sales) to Collector of Customs both in Cape Town. Official correspondence hand delivered hence lacking validating stamp.

Second British Occupation

Missent Letter.

"Sent on board amongst India letters & found in sorting them at the Cape" Geo. Elliot.



1807

London - Simonstown - Madeira

Posted at London 11 Feb 1807 to Madeira, normally 5 to 6 weeks. Placed in error in bag of India letters. Found May 4 at Simon's Bay. Delivered in Madeira 10 months later, 13 months after posting absent any London or Cape markings.

Second British Occupation

Uncommon example of Oval Medallion impression in wax as well as handstamp applied at Cape Town validating official correspondence to Deputy Fiscal at Simonstown.



Second British Occupation

Oval Medallion Stamp on rated correspondence.

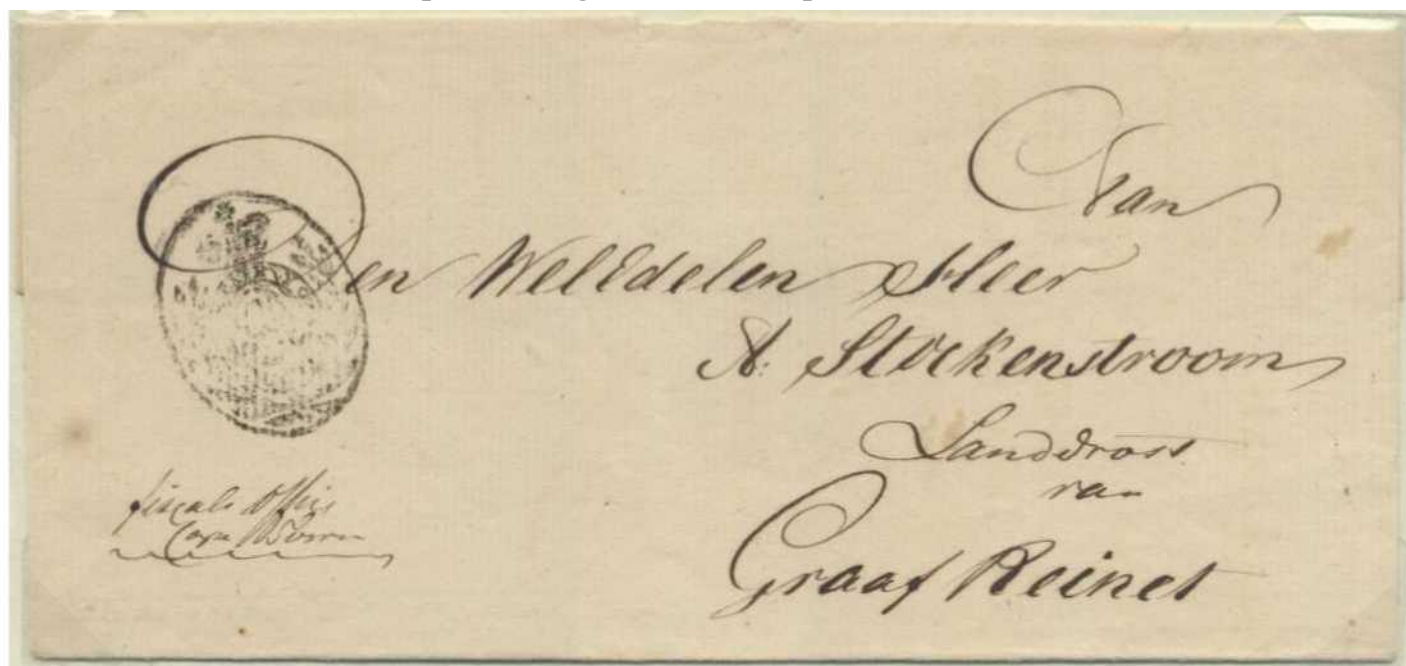


4 sk. ms.

4 sk. single sheet rate of 1816 Graaf-Reinet - Cape Town

Second British Occupation

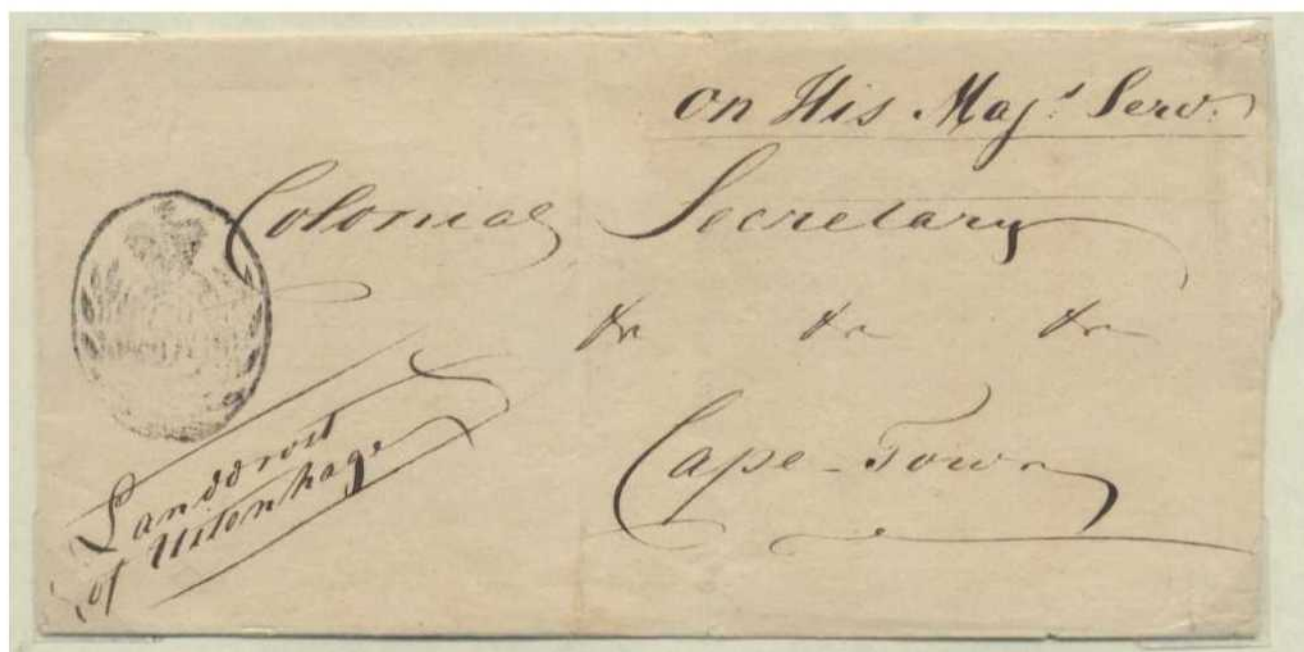
Oval Medallion stamp validating official correspondence.



1808

Misplaced dispatch stamp.

Cape Town - Graff-Reinet



1812

Uitenhage - Cape Town

Second British Occupation

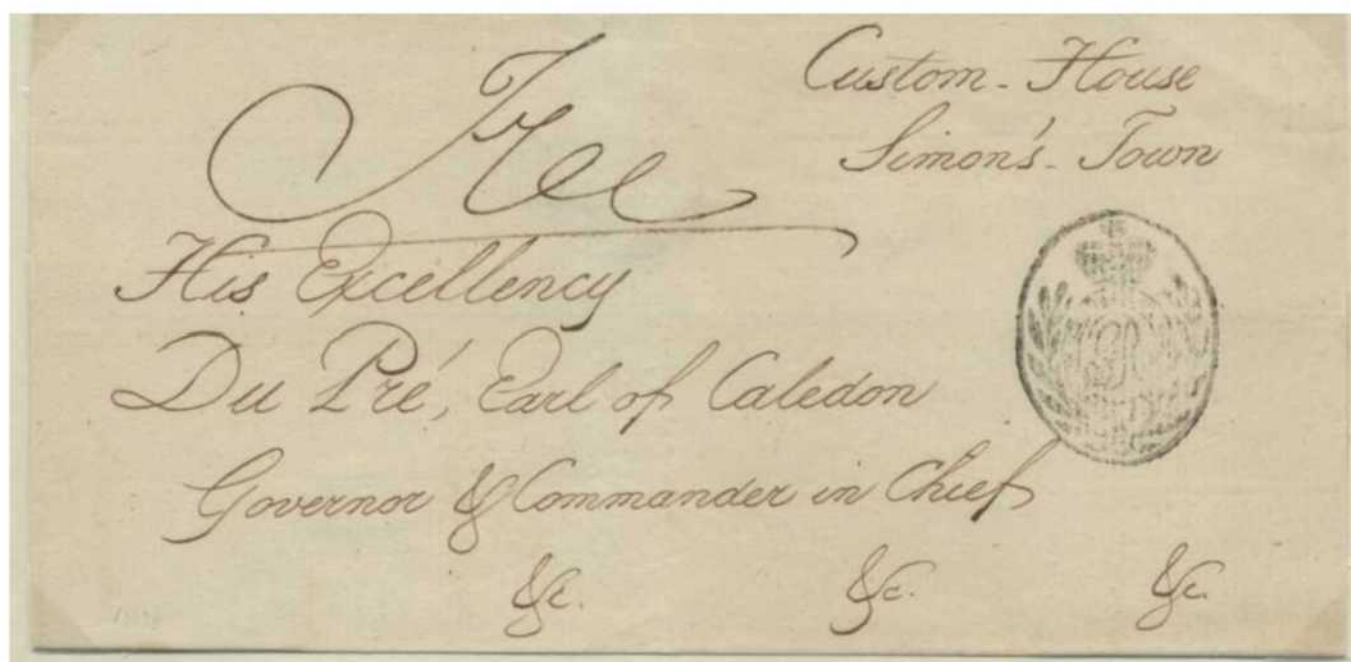
1817

Official Correspondence

To curb abuses, Postal Directive of 8 February 1817 listed persons and offices entitled to postage free service and mandated manuscript "Free" be inscribed in **red** ink at Cape Town.



Red ink.



Brown ink.

Second British Occupation

1807

Oval Medallion as dispatching stamp on overseas mail.



Cape Town - Edinburg

Posted 27 May 1807

Arrived 14 November 1807

Rated at London Ship Letter Office - 4d. Ship Letter Rate of 1799-2d. Master's gratuity-
1 d. 1805-12 inland rate London-Edinburg-1s. 5d..
Is. 1 d. deleted to add the 4d. ship letter rate.

Second British Occupation

Oval Medallion as receiving stamp on overseas mail.



Campie, Scotland - Cape Town

Posted 5 March 1806

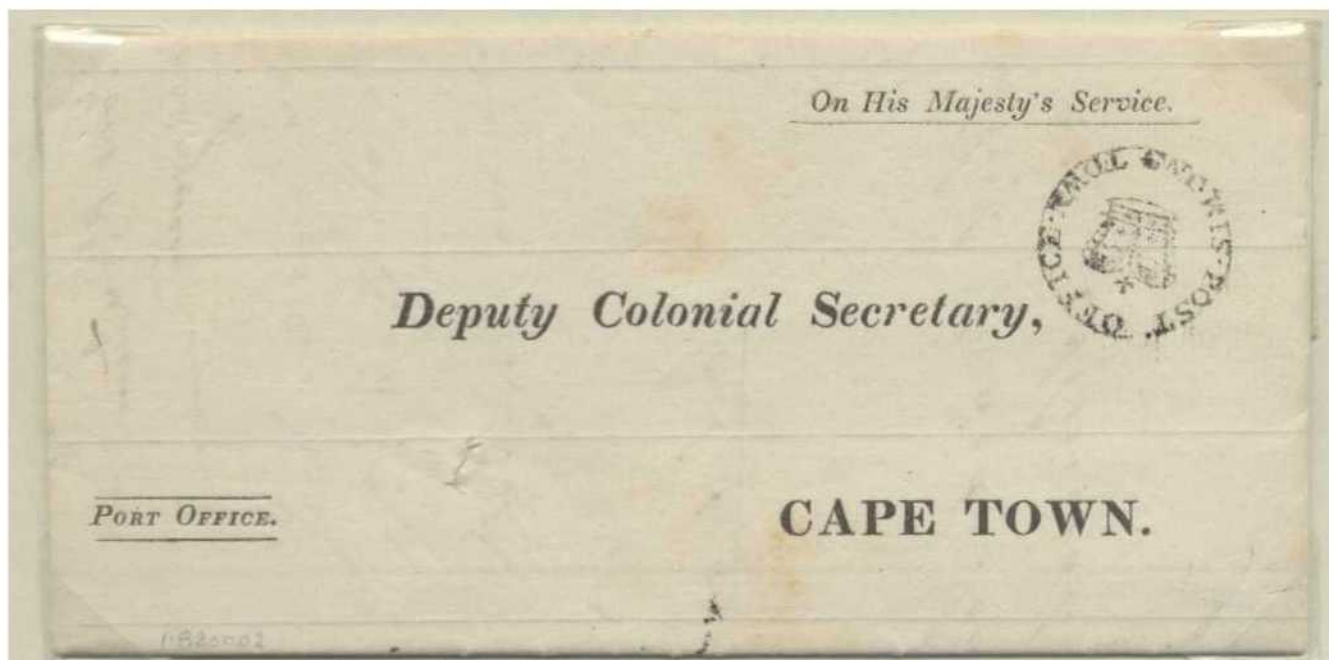
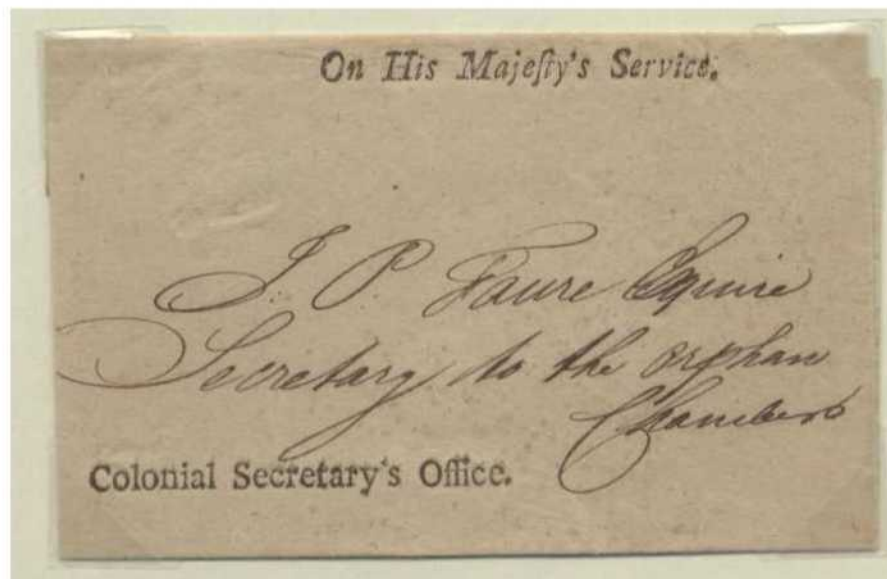
Arrived 5 August 1806

Letter to Major John Graham, 93^d. Highlanders, from his mother on hearing of Dutch capitulation. She states "I see by this day's paper the India ships have rec'd their final dispatches so shall send off this letter and write again." As was customary, sender indicated ship Adeona as carrier. Bay Isle substituted as Adeona may have sailed. Not rated at London, probably carried "by favor" by ship's personnel or passenger

Second British Occupation

Official Postal Stationery.

Printed official letter folders with the name of the government department were introduced in 1807.



Second British Occupation

Ship Letter Stamp of 1807

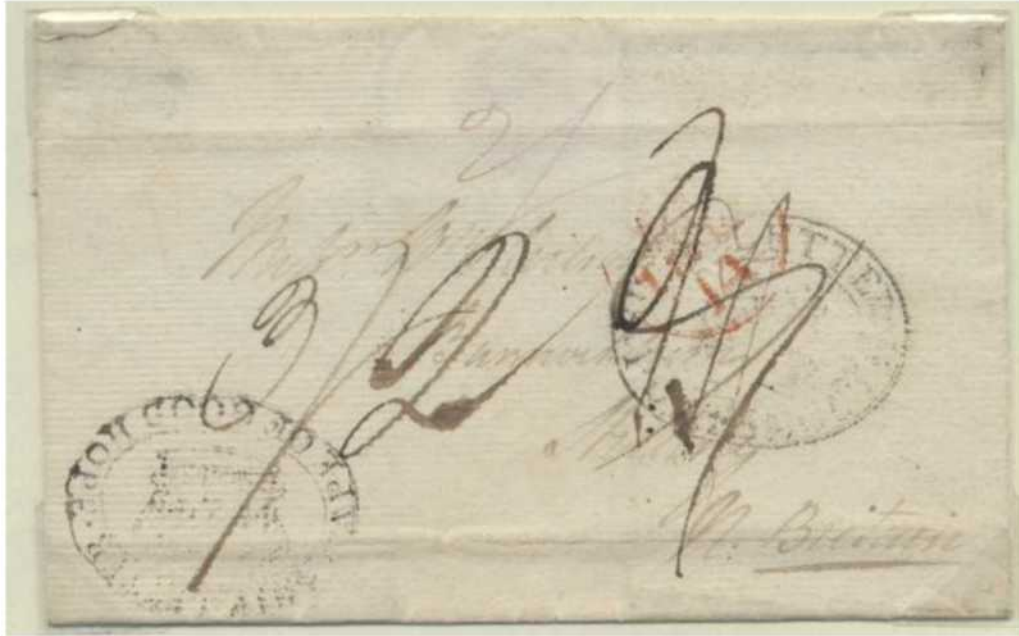
Ship Letter Stamp placed in use at Cape Town in 1807 to distinguish overseas mail from domestic. Used both as arrival and dispatch stamp. Earliest known use, 20 December 1807. It was used infrequently until at least 1849 during a period when the dated and undated letter stamps were used for the same purpose.



Wrapper encloses letter to Wm. Robertson of Maude & Robertson, Victuallers and Agents to the Royal Navy. Rated [6s. at](#) London. London P.M.G. could authorize overseas agents to collect 3s. for every 50 letters handed them by ship masters.

Second British Occupation

Ship Letter Stamp as dispatch stamp.



1812

Rated 2sk. double sheet rate of 1798 at Cape Town.

Is. deleted on arrival London Ship Letter Office and rated 4d., ship letter rate of 1799 + 2d. master's gratuity + 2s.8d. double sheet inland rate 600-700 miles of 1812 = 3s.2d.



1819

Unrated at Cape Town. Rated 4d. India ship letter rate of 1819 + 8d. Dover - London inland rate 1812 = Is.

Second British Occupation

Ship Letter Stamp

Letter from Cape Town to London carried by the Hon. East India Co's extra ship, Carmarthen. Shipping schedule from Cape Times October 1811.



2sk. ms double sheet ship letter rate 1798-1815 entered in red at Cape Town.

4d. India Ship Letter rate of 1799 + 2d. Master's gratuity + 1s.4d. inland rate to 80 miles = 1s.10d. rated at London.

1811.

OCTOBER.

1. Fanny, R. Brown, English Cartel, Isle of France, Morlaix. 133 French Prisoners, 8 Oct.

16. H. E. I. C. extra ship Carmarthen, J. Rofs, English, Bombay, London, sundries, 23 Oct.

17. H. M. ship Carolina, C. Cole, English, Batavia, England, with Dispatches, 24 Oct.

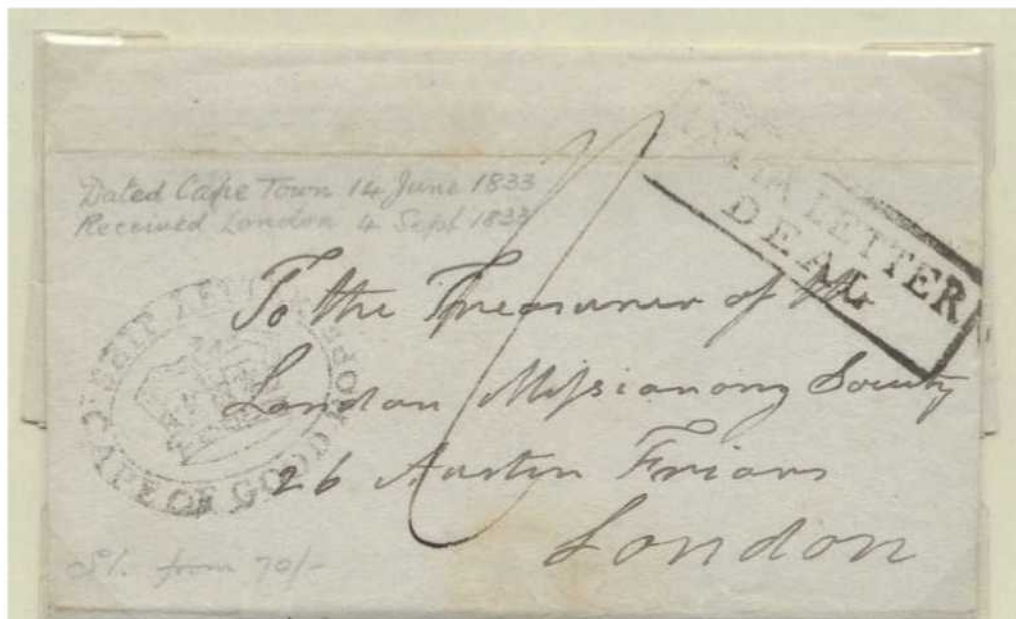
21. Sir Wm. Burroughs, Wm. Carr, English India Transport, Spithead, Isle of France, Naval and Ordnance Stores, 9 November.

23. H. E. I. C. ship Earing, H. Templer, English, Spithead. India, having on board Sir GEORGE NUGENT and Suite, 23 October.

24. Griffin, George Bunn, English, Monte Video, Cape, wine and sundries. 18 December.

Second British Occupation

Ship Letter Stamp



1833

Rated at London 4d. India Letter rate of 1819 + 8d. inland charges = 1s.



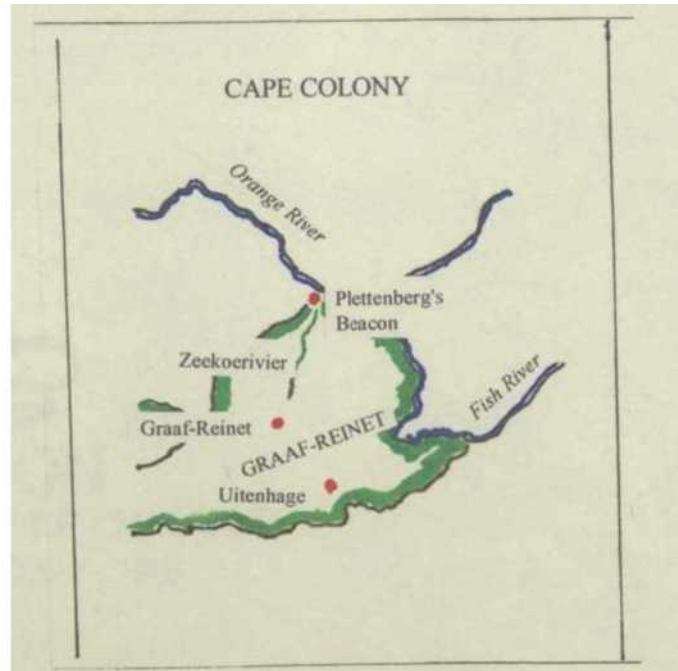
1847

Rated 4d. ship letter rate of 1846 at Cape Town.
Rated 8d. "in all" ship letter rate of 1840 at London.
Very late usage as attested by worn state of stamp.

Early Mail on the Eastern Frontier

1813

In 1780, Gov. J. van Plettenberg erected a beacon on the Zeekoerivier marking the northernmost point in the Colony for establishing farms. Theodorus Potgieter married October 10, 1780 and settled on the Zeekoerivier.

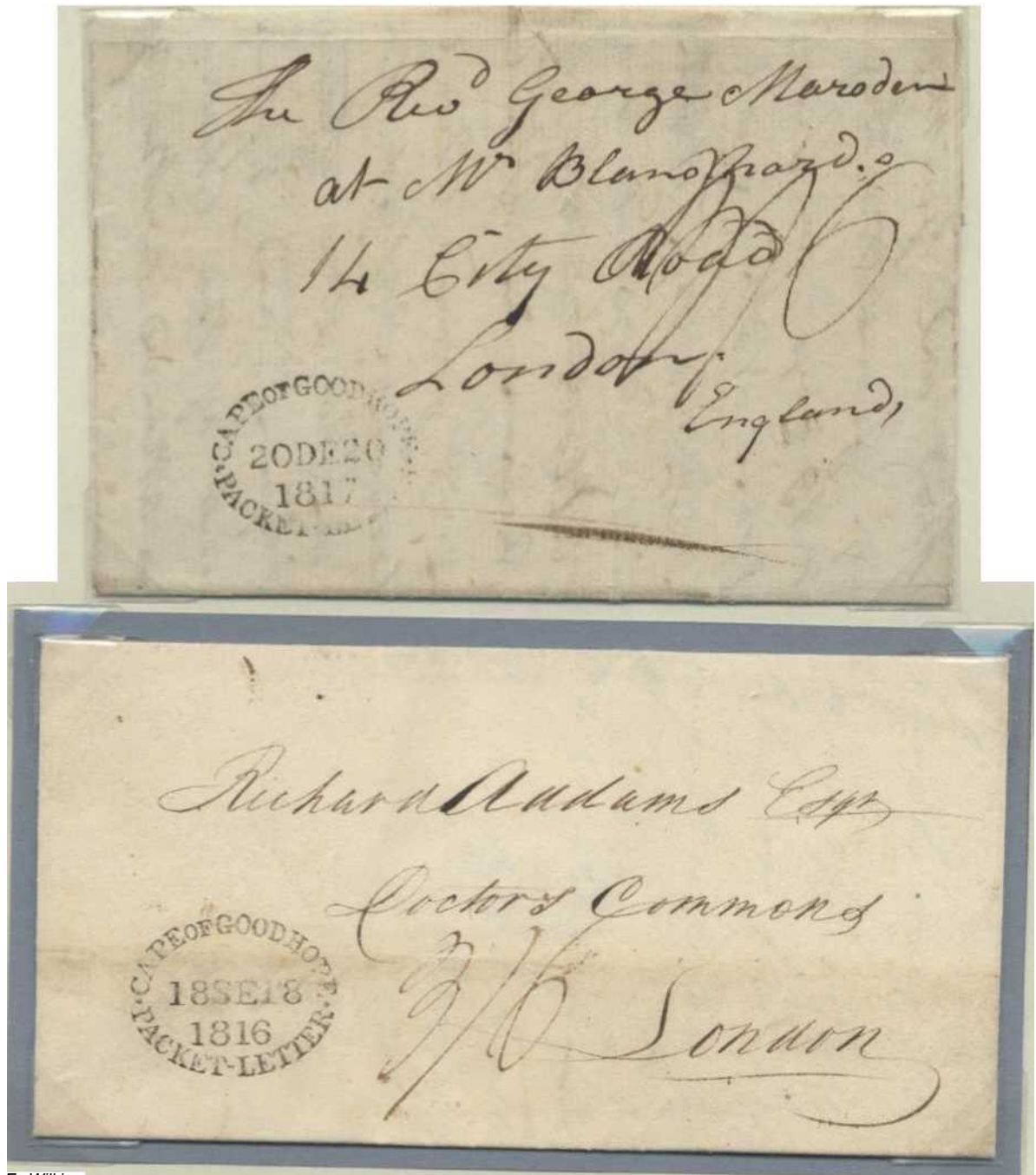


Letter from Major J.C. Cuyler, Acting Landroost at Uitenhage to Theo. Potgieter d'oude, Zeekoerivier, dated October 23, 1813.

Packet Letter Stamp

Issued 1816

Official post office handstamp issued to Cape Town post office by Colonial Office in London and required on all letters carried by packet. Used only at Cape Town, it is the first to incorporate the date in its design.



Ex Wilkins

British Ship Letter Act of 1815 tripled single sheet packet letter rate to 3s.6d. Act repealed in 1819. Ten examples of handstamp recorded.

District Post Offices

The Crown in Circle Handstamps.

To establish control over rapidly increasing inland postal use, 18 district post offices were opened between 1816 and 1824. Together with Cape Town, each was issued a brass handstamp manufactured in London by an engraver, R. Scott. Each is different with a distinctive crown within a circle and lettering which varies in size. The first four were issued in 1817 to Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Simonstown and Uitenhage.

Handstamps indicated prepayment of postage or official exemption therefrom. Examples of all are shown with the stamp illustrated.

1816 postal rates on Eastern and Northern routes.

	Cape Town	Stellenbosch	Pauri	Tullagh					
Simonstown	1sk.								
Stellenbosch	1sk.	2sk.	1sk.						
Pauri	1sk.								
Clarewilliam	2sk.								
Tullagh	2sk.	4sk.							
Caladen	2sk.				Caladen				
Swaklenden	2sk.	1sk.	2sk.	1sk.	4sk.	Swaklenden			
George	4sk.					1sk.	1sk.	George	
Uitenhage	4sk.					2sk.	2sk.	1sk.	Uitenhage
Graaf-Reinet	4sk.					2sk.	2sk.	1sk.	1sk.

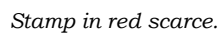
Both currencies used
Dutch to English.

1st. = Id.

1 sk. = 6d.



4sk. single sheet rate of 1816 could be from Graaf-Reinet, Uitenhage or George to Cape Town.



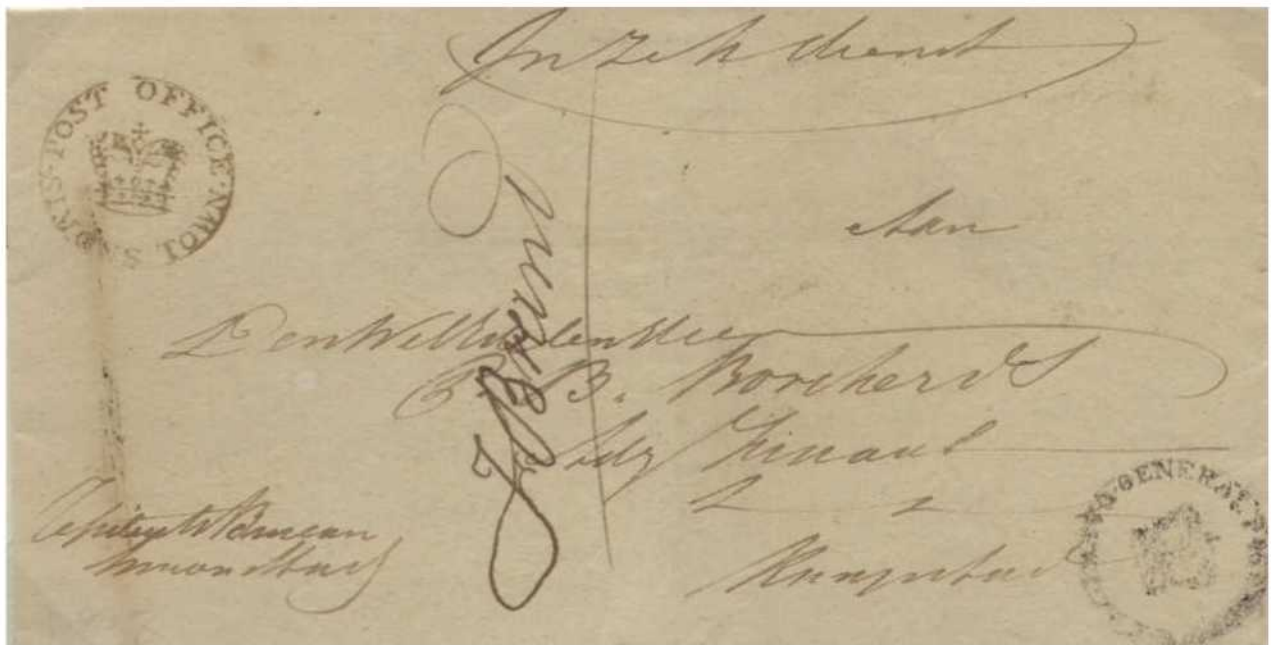
District Post Offices

Issued 1817

Simonstown



Rated 4d. incoming ship letter rate of 1826 + 3d. inland rate Cape Town - Simonstown = 7d.



Signature is Lt. Col. Jacob Brunt of the 83rd. Foot. Served 1808 - 1817. Signature may have attested to official status of letter.

District Post Offices

Simonstown

On February 8, 1817, Acting Governor Lord Charles Somerset issued a directive curtailing the number of persons entitled to send and receive colonial letters free of postage. Still listed was HM Fiscal Daniel Denyssen at Cape Town.



Letter from Denyssen to Government Resident at Simonstown.



Sender unknown to D. Denyssen at Cape Town

District Post Offices

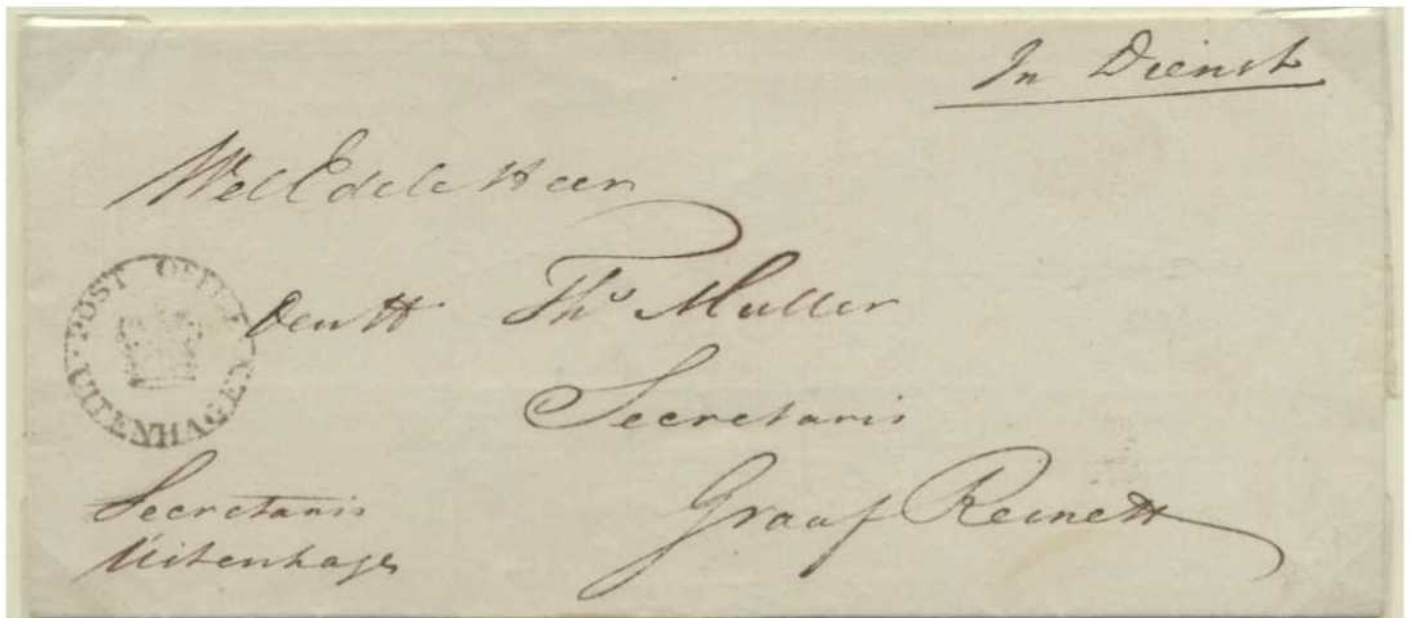
Issued 1817

Uitenhage



Ex: Joseph

Uitenhage - Cape Town

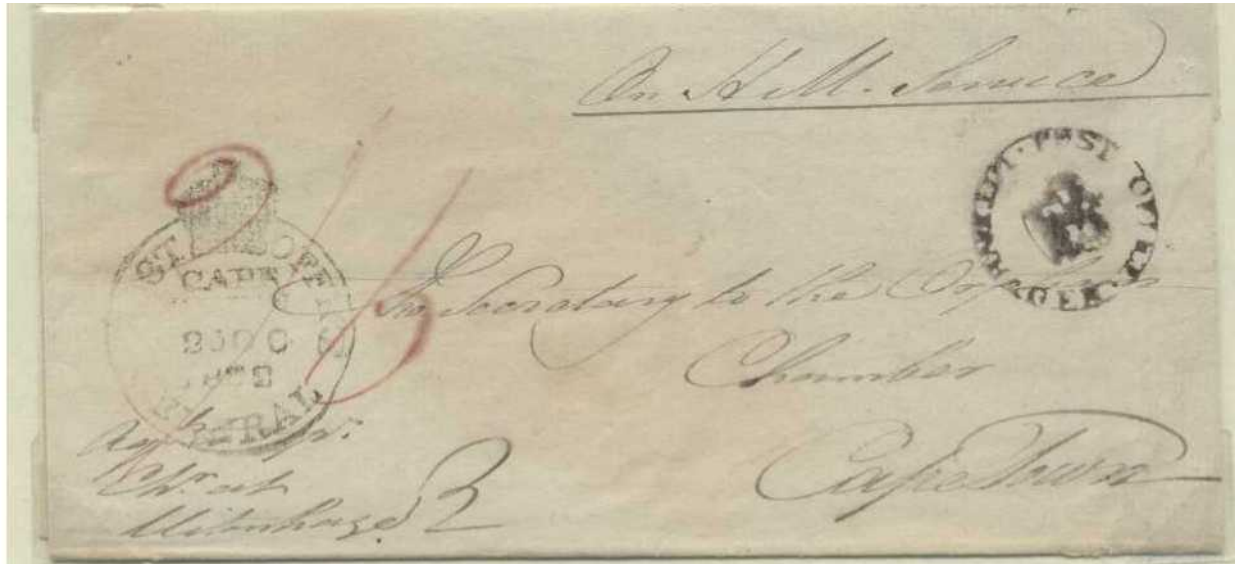


Ex.- Joseph

Uitenhage - Graaf-Reinet

District Post Offices

Placement Regulations



Correct placement of dispatch and arrival stamps.



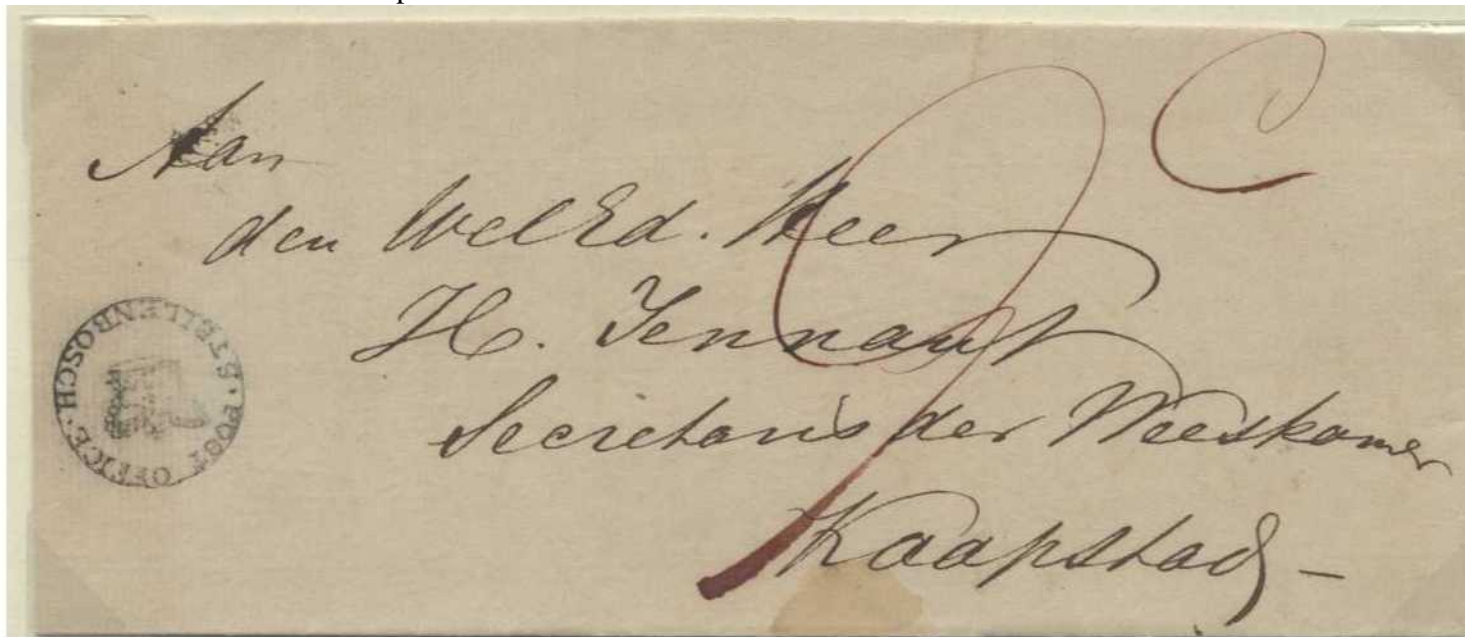
Reversed placement of stamps.

Both rated 2s.6d. triple sheet rate of 1826, Uitenhage - Cape Town

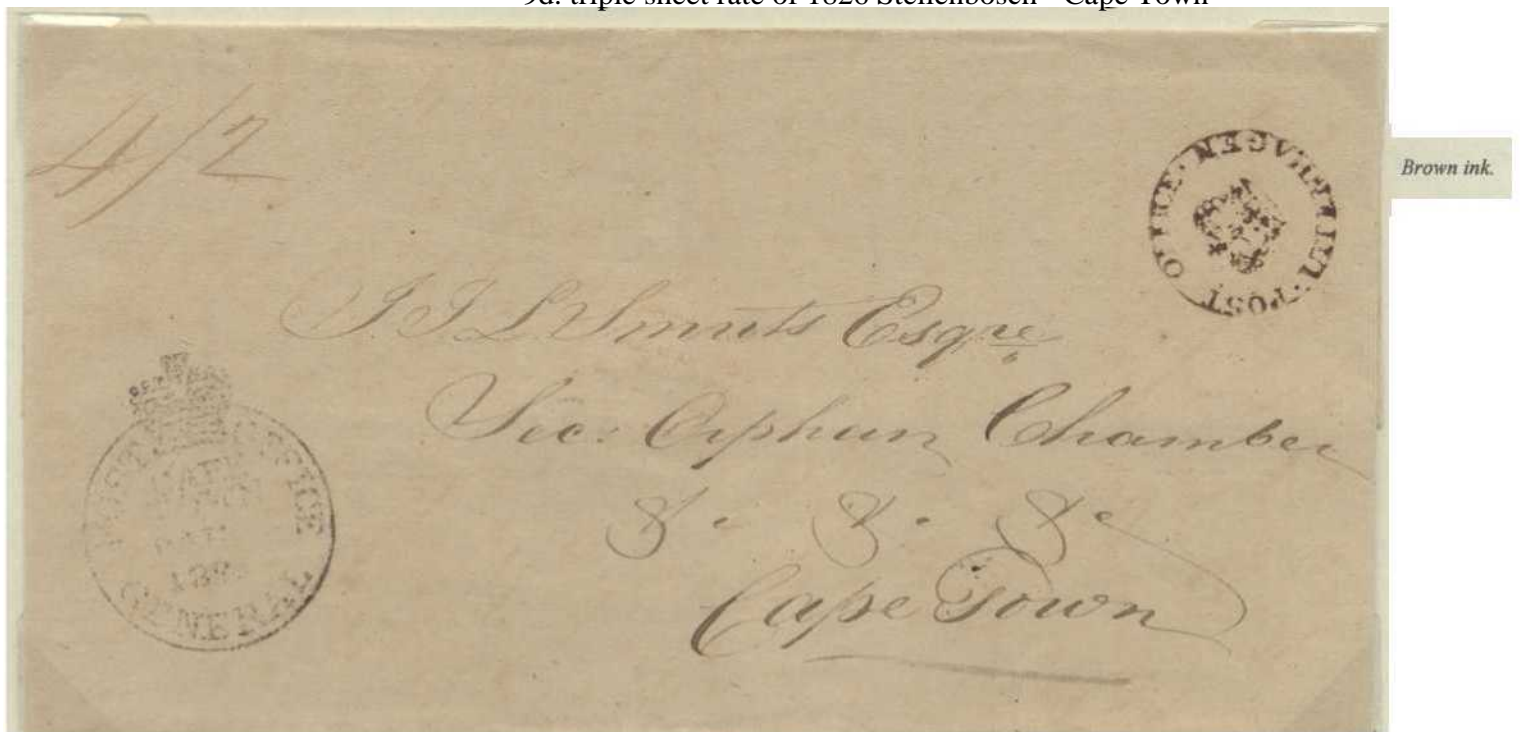
District Post Offices

Ink Color Regulations

Although postal regulations required the stamps be made in black ink supplied by the General Post Office at Cape Town, occasional unauthorized use of brown ink occurred and rarely strikes in red ink were made. Examples are shown in this section.



9d. triple sheet rate of 1826 Stellenbosch - Cape Town



4s. 2d. five sheet rate of 1826 Uitenhage - Cape Town

District Post Offices

Issued 1818

Least commonly seen of the Post Office Letter Stamps, an enduring myth alleges Postmistress Mrs. Wrangmore to have mislaid hers accounting for the scarcity. This wrapper, stamped nine years after the stamp's issue might bring that to question.

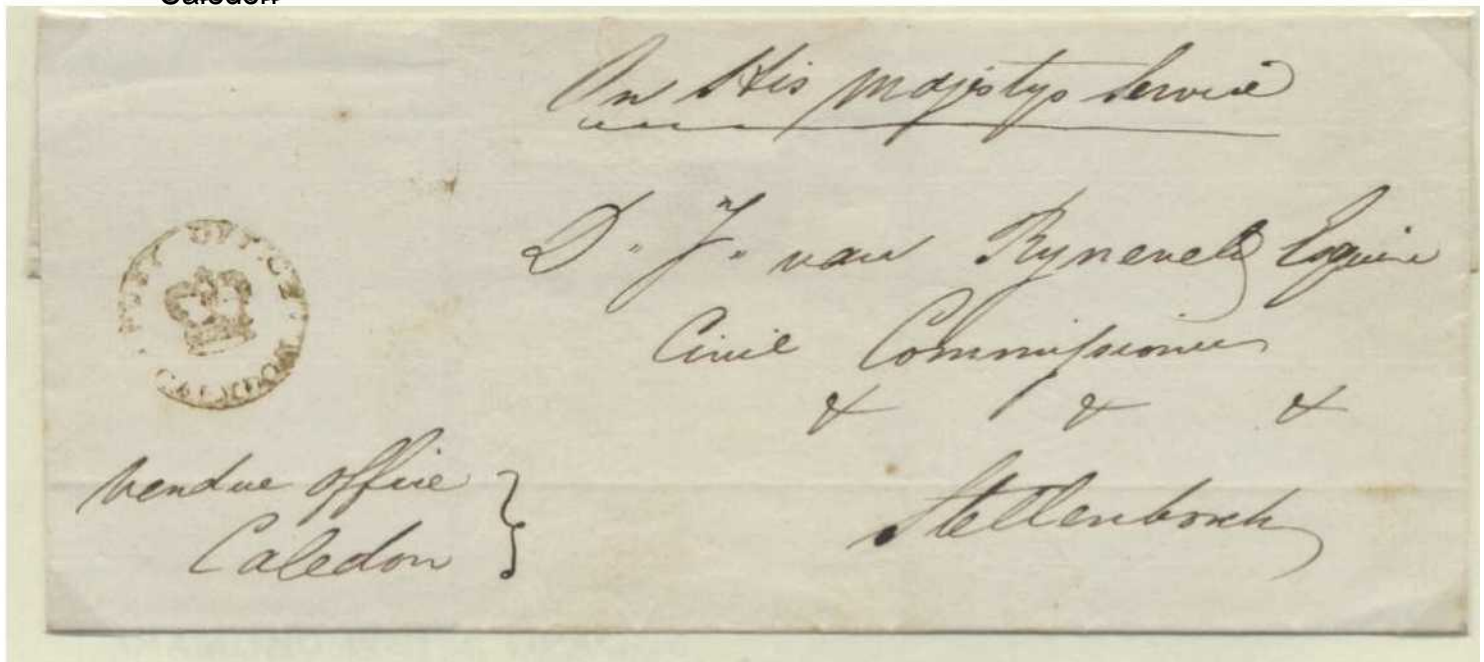


ms. "Unpaid" entered at Paarl. Official status confirmed by First Official Dated Letter Stamp applied at Cape Town

District Post Offices

Issued 1818

Caledon



Unrated official mail Caledon - Stellenbosch



1829

Unpaid 5d. single sheet rate 1826 entered at Caledon to be collected at Cape Town.

District Post Offices

Issued 1818

Tulbagh



1836 letter Tulbagh - Worcester. Double crease suggests briefstok. Hottentot runners used as late as 1887. Difficult to authenticate, provenance essential.



Rated 1s. Paid ms. double sheet rate 1826 Tulbagh - Cape Town.

District Post Offices

Issued 1818

Zwellendam



Zwellendam - Cape Town

Undated wrapper marked 'Paid'. Single sheet rate of 1816 - 2sk., rate of 1826 - 7d.



Zwellendam - Cape Town

Unrated official correspondence.

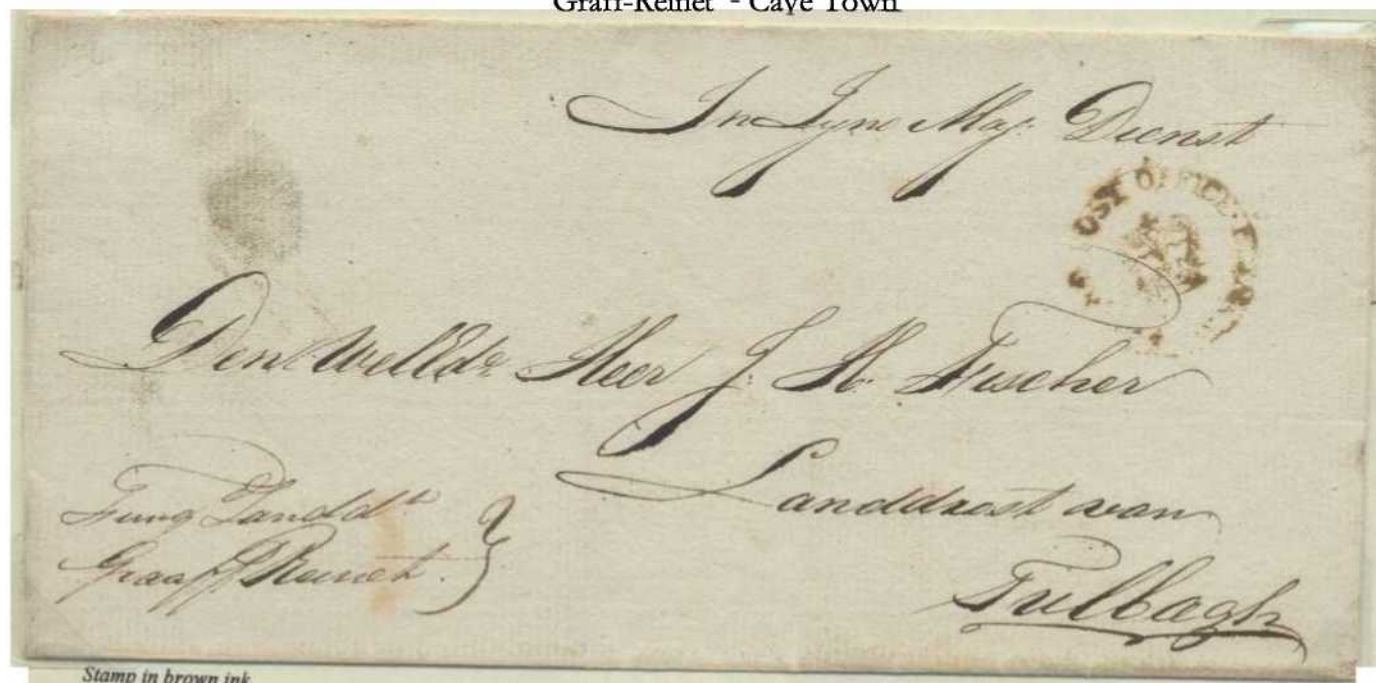
District Post Offices

Issued 1818

Graaf-Reinet



Graff-Reinet - Caye Town



Graaf-Reinet - Tulbagh

District Post Offices

Graaf-Reinet



Undated, unrated wrapper from Graaf-Reinet to Chief Justice Sir John Truter, first Cape born Knight of the British Empire.



Undated official wrapper from the Office for the Enregisterment of Slaves at Graaf-Reinet to District Clerk, J.C. Winterbach. Incorrectly addressed as Winterbach was District Clerk of Tulbagh not Uitenhage.

District Post Offices

Issued 1818

George



Stamp in red ink rare.

George - Cape Town
9d. single sheet rate of 1826.

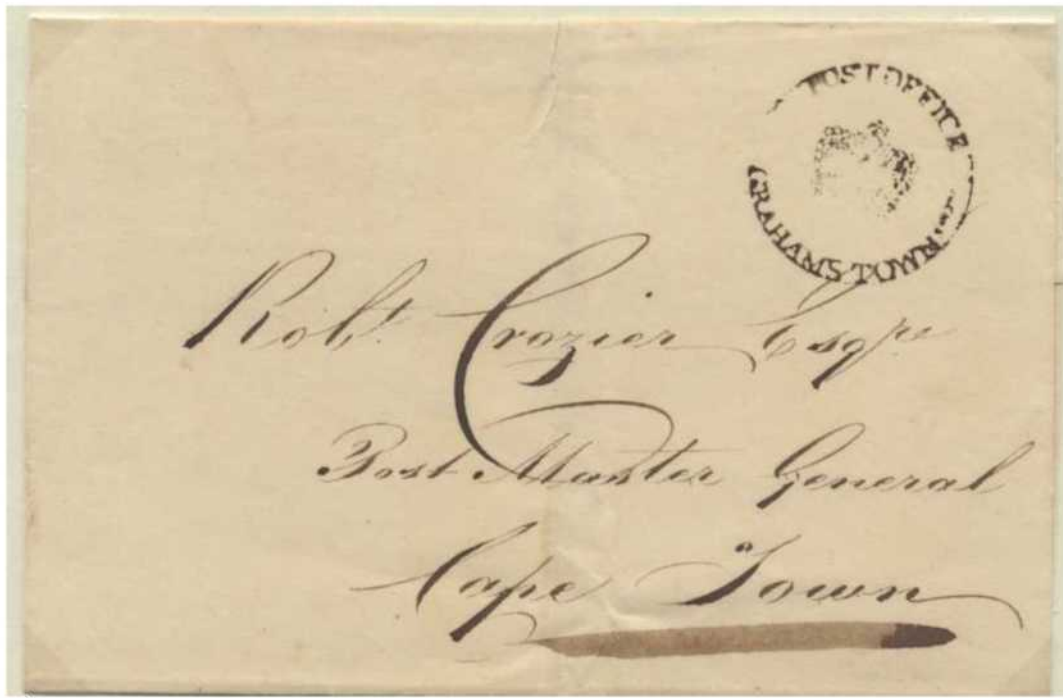


Official unrated letter to the Postmaster General.

District Post Offices

Issued 1819

Grahamstown



Official correspondence Grahamstown - Cape Town

District Post Offices

Use of handstamp as transit marking.

Use of Post Office Letter Stamps as transit marking was very uncommon.



Cradock - Grahamstown - Cape Town

Letter from postmaster at Cradock to Postmaster General at Cape Town with Grahamstown stamp as transit marking. Faint strike of Cradock dispatch stamp reinforced by postmaster's manuscript entry. Wrapper lacks Cape Town arrival stamp.

District Post Offices

Somerset West (Hottentots Holland)

First post office at Somerset West opened in 1822. and in Somerset East in 1825. Both offices remain open today. Because of the great variance in distance from Cape Town, the rates from Somerset East were much greater than from Somerset West. The 3d. single sheet rate from Somerset West compared to the 1s.1d rate from Somerset East. It would appear each was issued an identical handstamp.

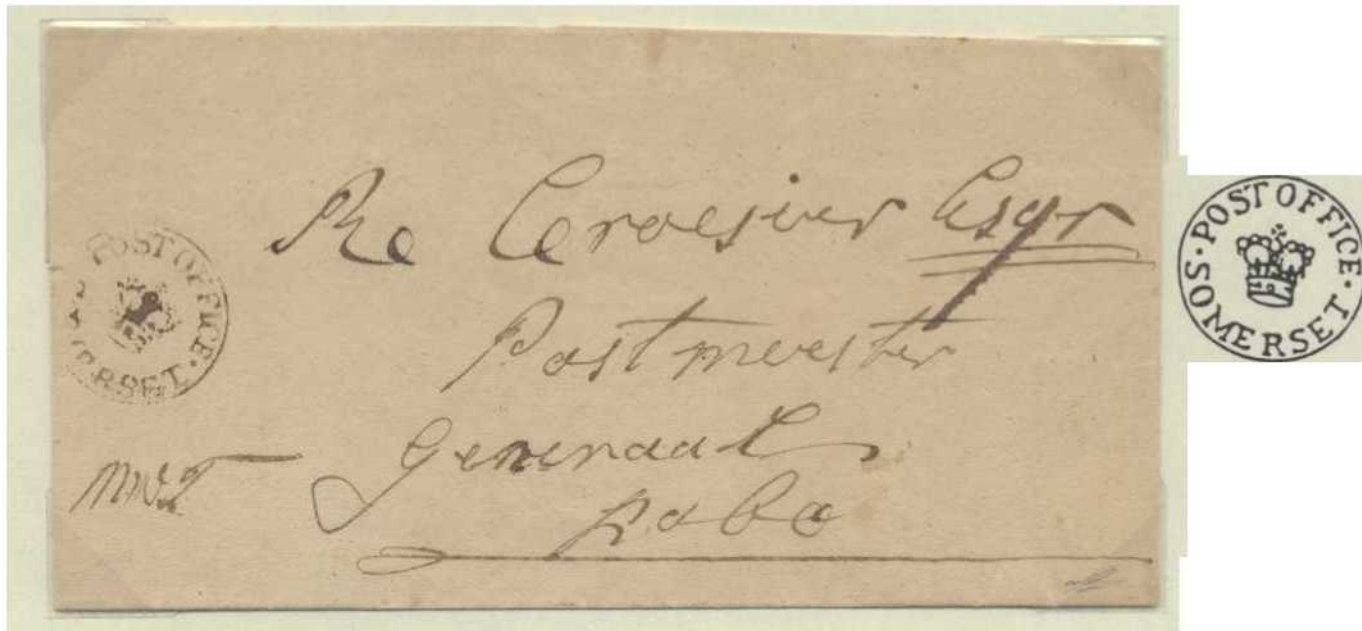


3d. single sheet rate of 1826 entered paid at Somerset West and 2 July 1832, 2nd. Dated Letter Stamp entered at Cape Town.

District Post Offices

Issued 1823

Somerset East



1837 single sheet rates
on Eastern Route.

To and from Cape Town and	To & from Cape Town &	Somerset	Caledon	Swellendam	Port Beaufort	George	Plettenberg Bay	Uitenhage	Port Elizabeth	Grahamstown	Bathurst	Graaf-Reinet	Colesberg	Somerset East	Craddock	Beaufort	Simonstown
Somerset H M	3d																
Caledon.....	5	2d															
Swellendam	7	4	3d														
Port Beaufort	8	6	4	3d													
George	9	7	6	5	6d												
Plettenberg B.	11	9	8	7	6	5d											
Uitenhage	10	9	8	7	8	6	8d										
Port Elizabeth	11	10	9	8	9	7	9	2d									
Grahamstown	12	11	10	9	10	8	10	4	6d								
Bathurst	13	12	11	10	11	9	11	5	7	3d							
Graaf-Reinet	12	11	10	9	10	8	10	4	6	6	7d						
Colesberg	14	13	12	11	12	11	12	8	9	8	9	5d					
Somerset (East)	13	12	11	10	11	9	11	6	7	3	4	3	6d				
Craddock	13	12	11	10	11	9	11	5	7	3	4	3	8	3d			
Beaufort	10	9	8	7	8	6	8	6	7	9	10	8	9	8	7d		
Simonstown	3	4	6	8	9	10	12	11	12	13	14	13	15	14	14	11d	

District Post Offices

Issued 1822

Cradock

Two wrappers addressed to Capt. Duncan Campbell, Civil Commissioner to the Districts of Albany and Somerset. Both denied official status and marked unpaid.



Rated [3d. to](#) pay, single sheet rate of 1826, Cradock - Grahamstown.



Rated [6d. to](#) pay, double sheet rate of 1826.

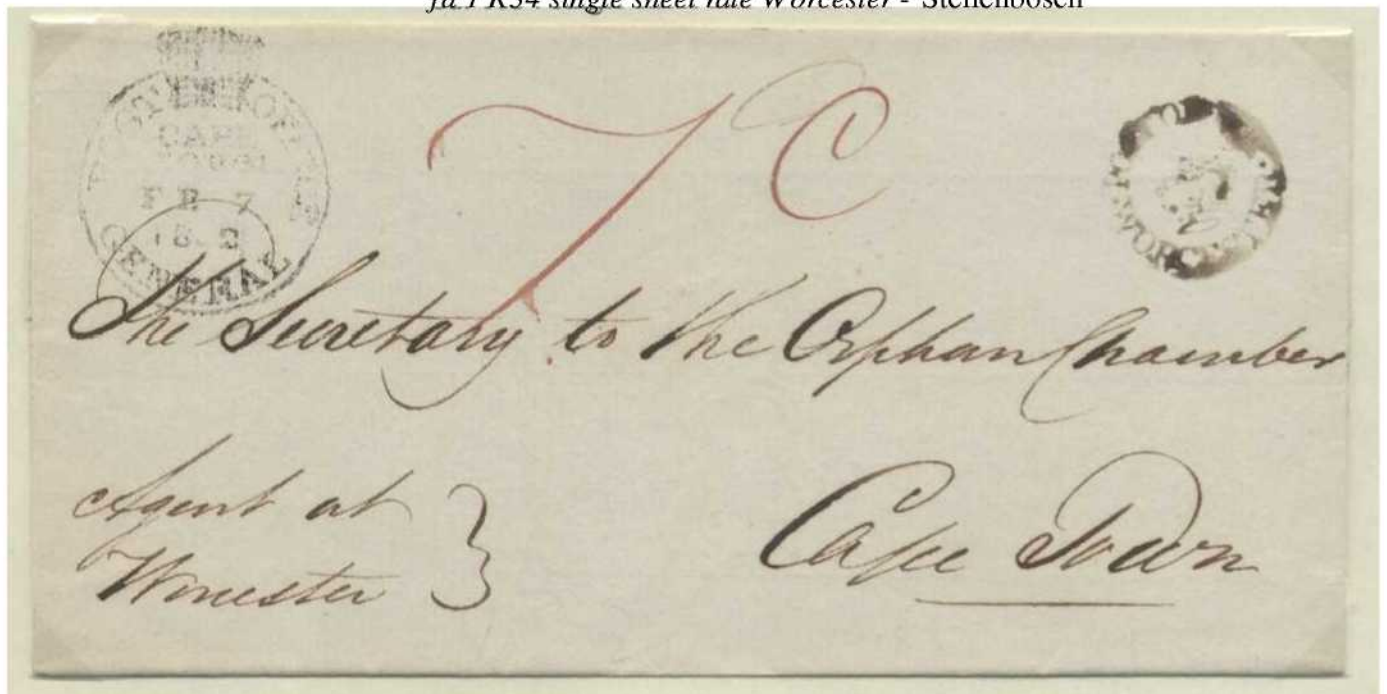
District Post Offices

Issued 1822

Worcester



fd. 1 R34 single sheet rate Worcester - Stellenbosch



7d. 1826 single sheet rate Worcester - Cape Town

District Post Offices

Issued 1821

Clanwilliam



Ex: Sir Henry Tucker

Official wrapper to Sir. Rufane Donkin, Acting Governor 1820 - 1821.



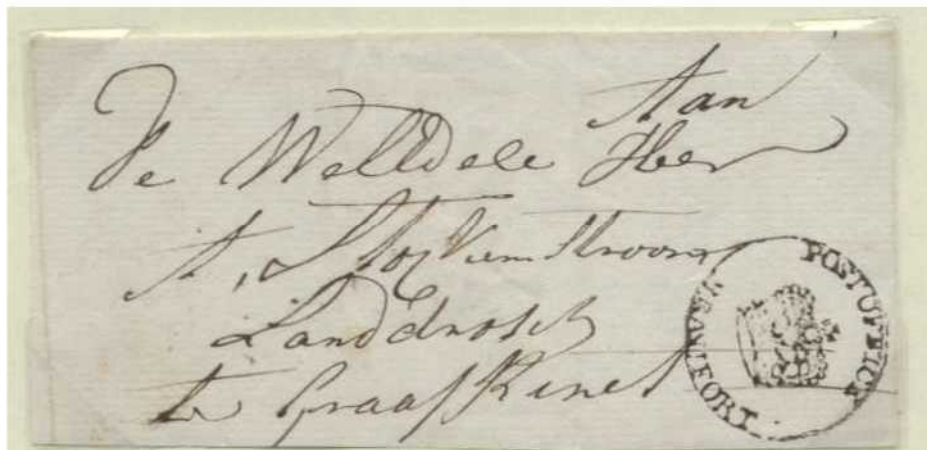
Official status denied and marked unpaid. Rated 8d. single sheet rate of 1826 Clanwilliam - Cape Town.

District Post Offices

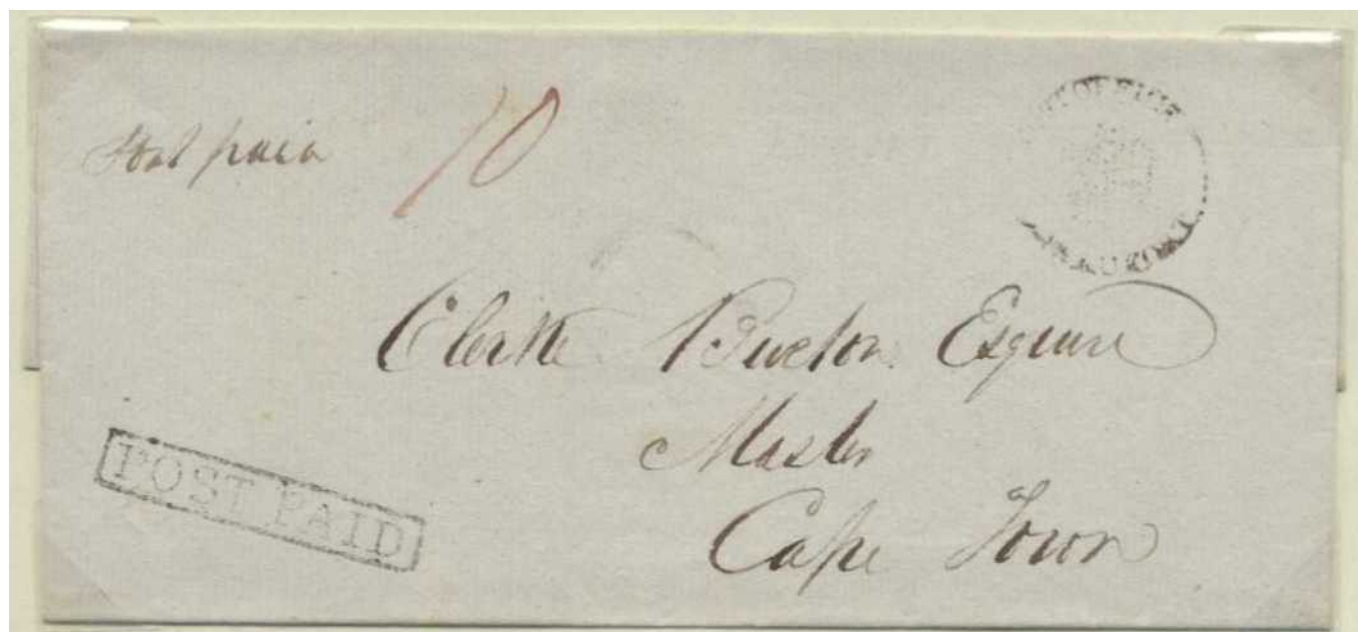
Issued 1821

Beaufort

Government directive of 13 October 1807 removed Landdrosts from list of persons entitled to postage free mail.



Unrated, undated wrapper Beaufort - Graaff-Reinet to Andries Stockenstroom appointed Landdrost at Graaff-Reinet in 1816 should have been charged 4sk, single sheet rate of 1816.



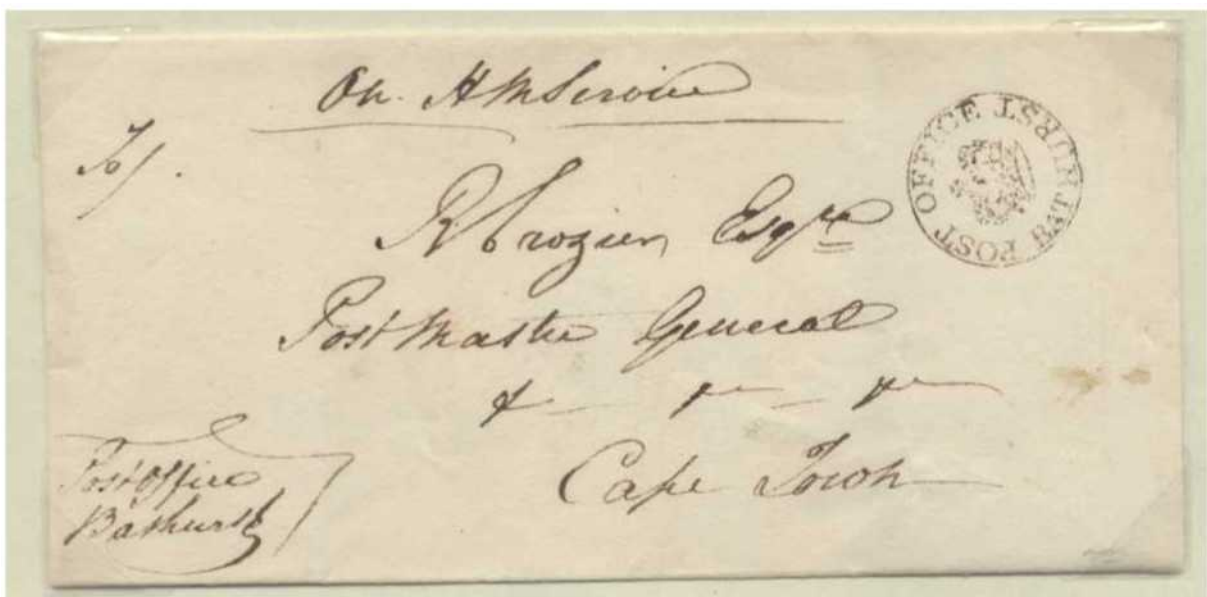
10d. single sheet rate of 1837 Beaufort - Cape Town.

District Post Offices

Issued 1822

Bathurst

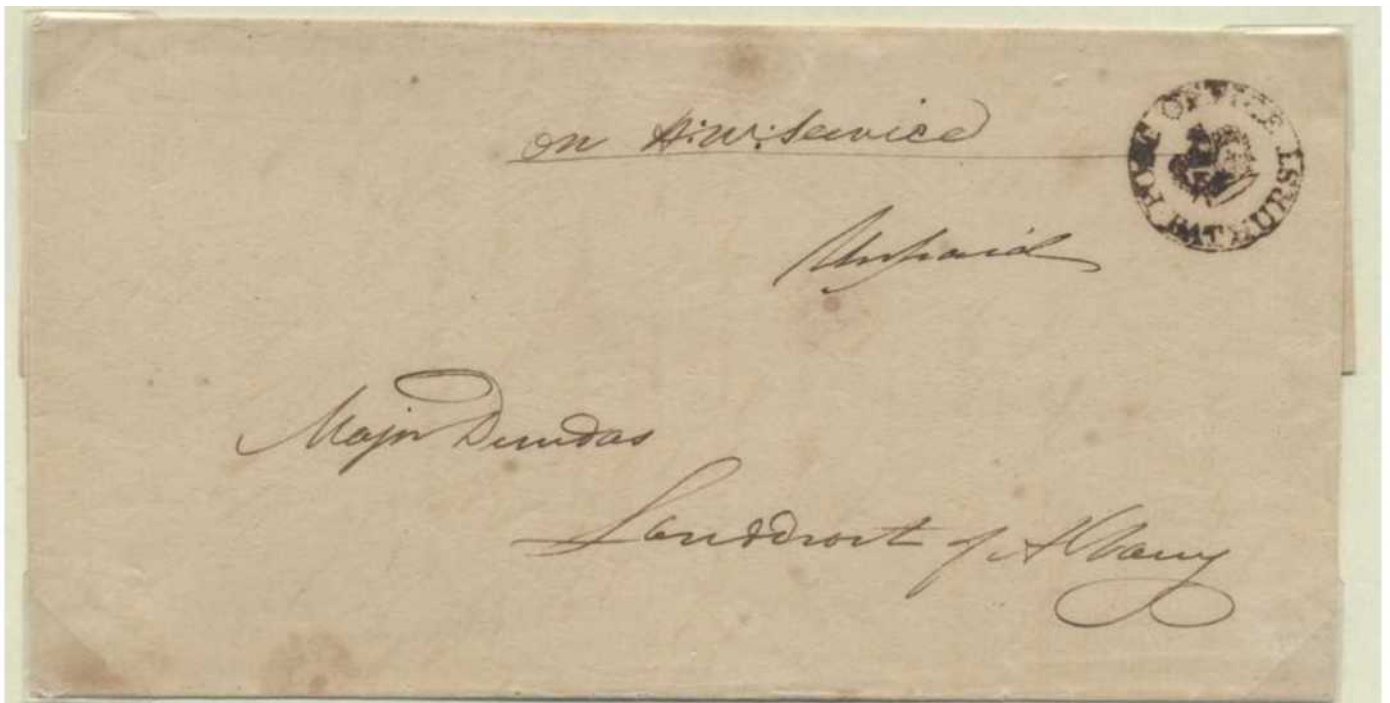
Early official letters showing only the stamp of the dispatch office. One correctly placed in the upper right corner and one incorrectly placed.



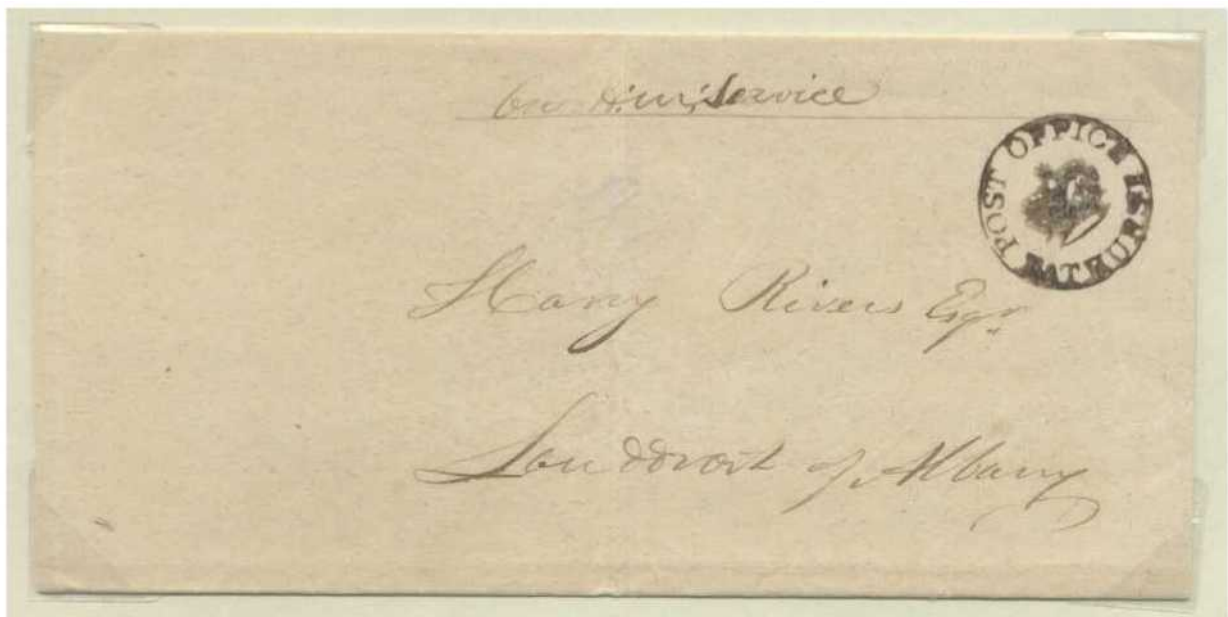
District Post Offices

Bathurst

In settlements with no post office, the Landrost served as post master and his home as post office. Governor's directive of 1810 gave Landrosts official free mail.



Major Dundas preceded Henry Rivers as Landrost of Albany.



Henry Rivers served from 1822 to 1825.

District Post Offices

Issued 1823

Port Elizabeth

Letter to Lord Charles Henry Somerset, Governor and Commander In Chief of the Cape of Good Hope. Pencil notation, "refer to Col. Cuyler," a close associate of Lord Somerset. District of Albany named after Cuyler's birthplace, Albany, New York.



Stamp in red ink rare.



District Post Offices

Issued 1824

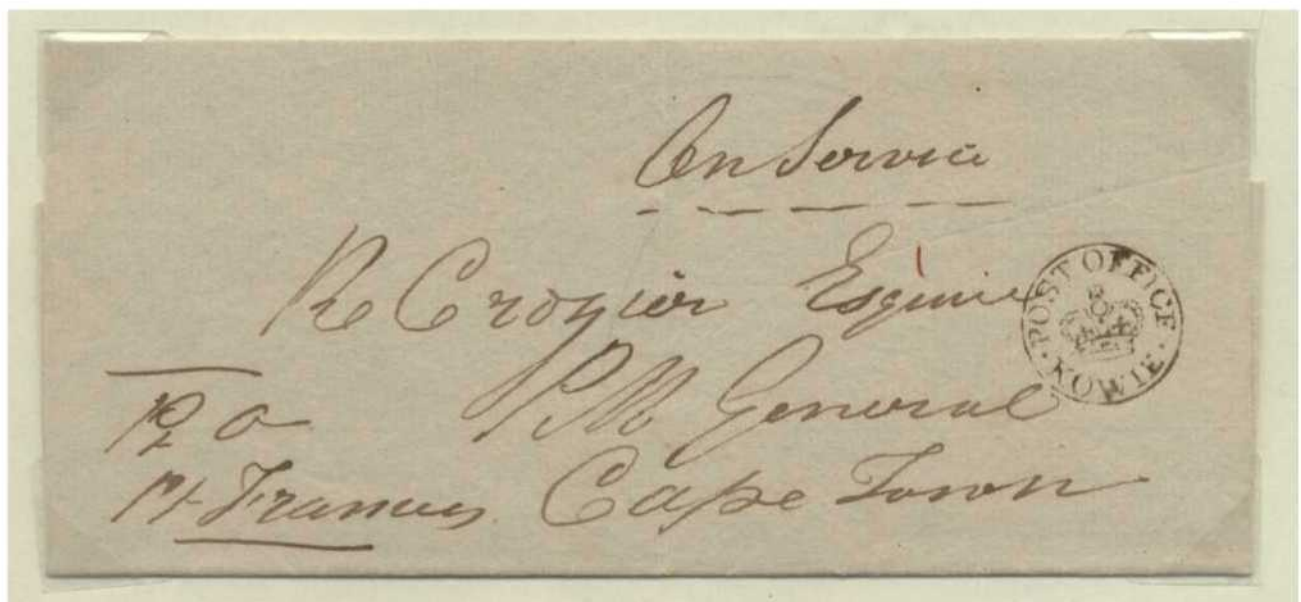
Kowie

Last of the post office letter stamps to be issued.



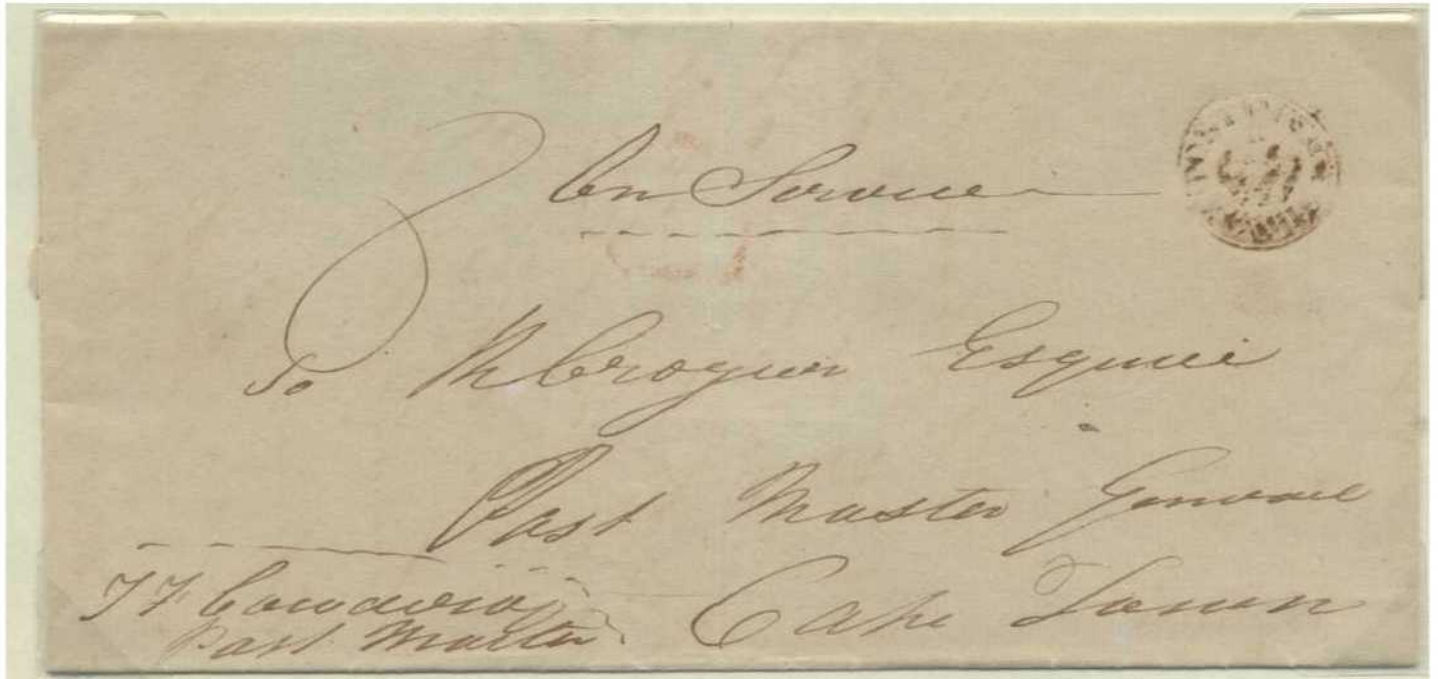
stamp in brown.

Official status denied. Marked "unpaid" but not rated.



District Post Offices

Kowie



Ex Collins.

Denial of official status of this letter probably an error as Ordinance 26 of 9 October 1826 provided all letters addressed to the Postmaster General and superscribed by any of the deputy postmasters were regarded as official. T.F. Cowderoy was the postmaster at Kowie.

District Post Offices

Post Office Letter Stamp on overseas mail.



Kynsna, district of George - Ipswich, England. Uncommon use.

Cape Markings:

George dispatch stamp.

Third Dated Letter Stamp - 1843 - transit stamp at Cape Town.

Rated:

9d, single sheet rate of 1837, George - Cape Town.

2d. Ship Master's gratuity.

4d. uniform ship letter rate of 1840

1s.3d. paid at Kynsna black ms.

London marking:

8d. inland letter rate Deal - London - Ipswich black ms.

Letter landed at Deal and received India Letter Deal transit stamp.

District Post Offices



Impressions of Post Office Letter Stamps impressed in wax cut from sealed letters or wrappers.

Handstamps, worn and frequently clogged with wax, responsible for scarcity of clear impressions. Tooth brushes issued district postmasters to clean them appear to have been rarely used.

First Dated Letter Stamp

Issued 1822

Authorized by Robert Crozier, Postmaster General at Cape Town and patterned after Packet Letter Stamp, it established date of posting. In use 1822-1828. During the preadhesive period, only Cape Town and Port Elizabeth were issued dated letter stamps.



Single digit dates inserted before and after month.



Double digit dates inserted only at right of month.

First Dated Letter Stamp

Use on inland letters to indicate prepayment of postage.



Dispatch stamp Cape Town - Stellenbosch.



Stamp in red ink rare.

Arrival stamp Uitenhage - Cape Town

First Dated Letter Stamp

Use on overseas mail. Not rated at Cape Town



Rated at London Ship Letter Office. 4d. ship letter rate + 2d. ship master's gratuity + 2s.
1 d. inland rate Cowes - London = 2s. 7d.



d . deleted. Correct rate would be 4d. ship letter rate + 2d. master's gratuity + 7d. inland
rate Gravesend - London = 1s. 7d.

First Official Dated Letter Stamp

ISSUED 1823

Distinctly different from the First Dated Letter Stamp. Used at Cape Town both as arrival and dispatch stamp.



1824

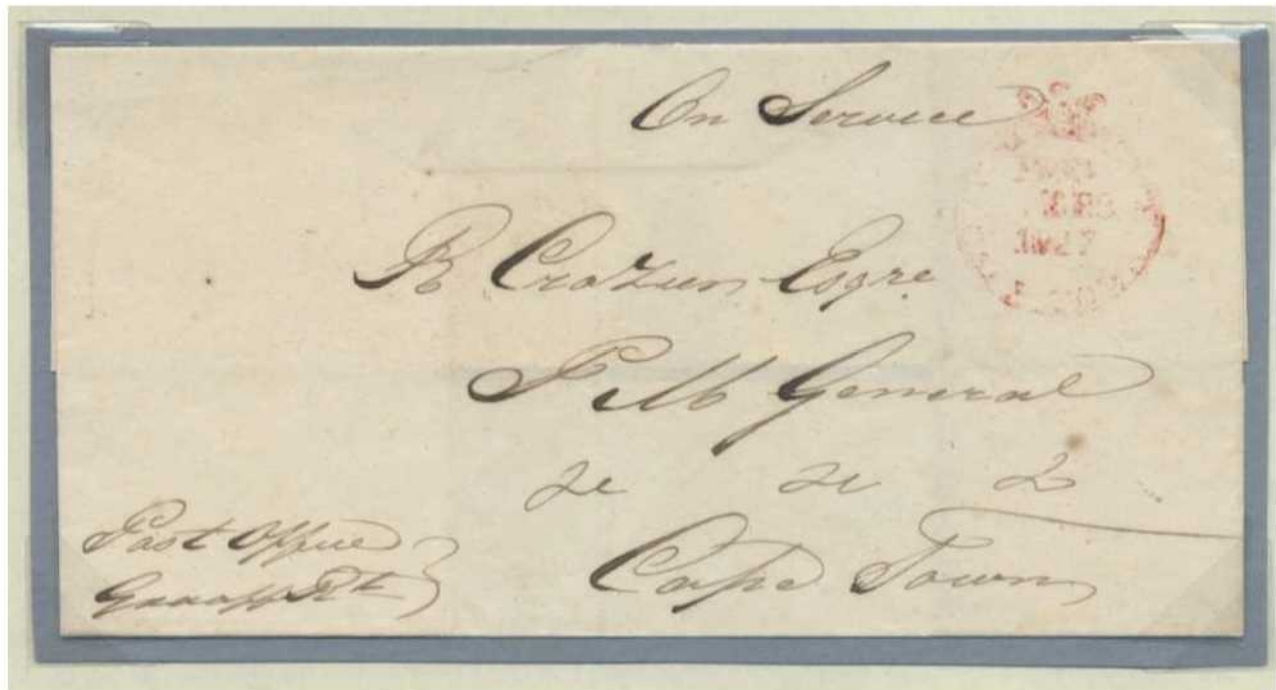
Cape Town - Stellenbosch



1827

Grahamstown - Cape Town

First Official Dated Letter Stamp



Stamp in red ink rare.

Official correspondence Post Office at Graaf-Reinet to Postmaster General Robert Crozier.

Servicemen's Letters

1828

From 1806 to 1846, Soldiers, sailors and non-commissioned officers sent letters free.
Endorsement of Commanding Officer separated from address by diagonal line required.



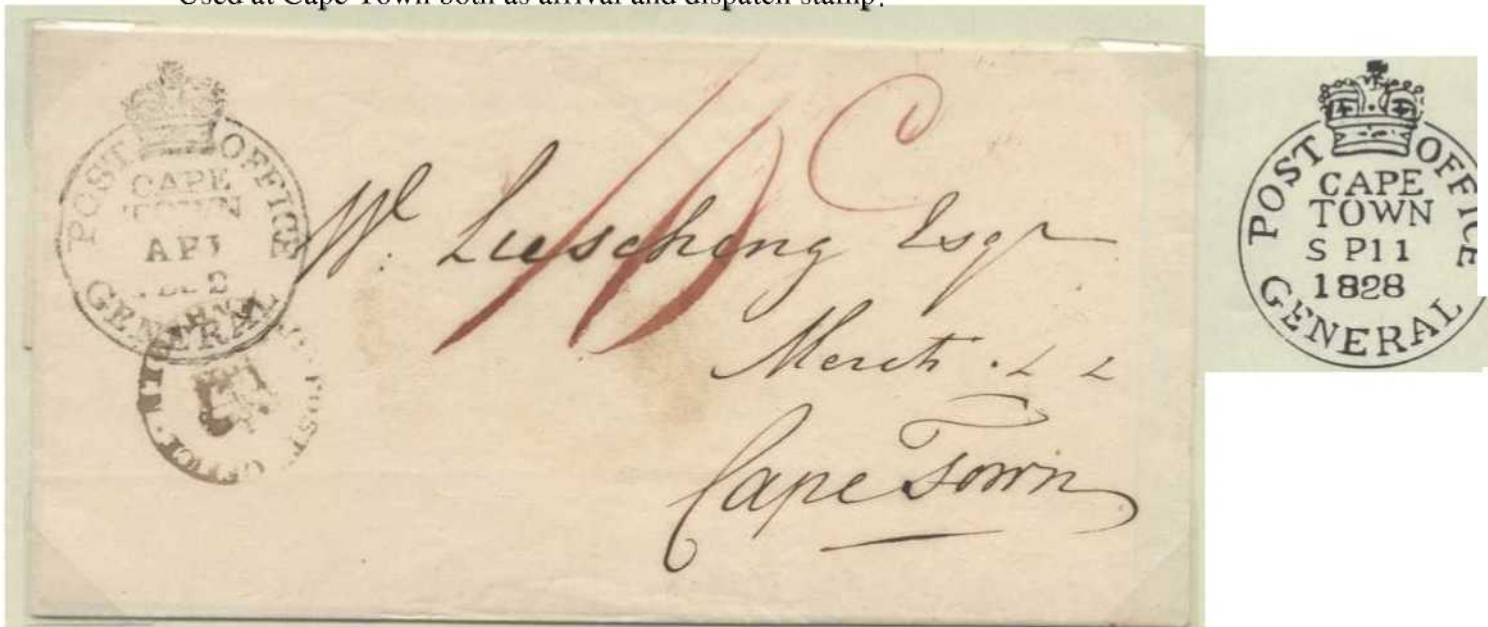
1 d. Ship's Master's gratuity charged addressee at London..
Second Dated Letter Stamp - Dispatching stamp.
Deal mileage stamp and Drohega arrival stamp on reverse.

Second Dated Letter Stamp

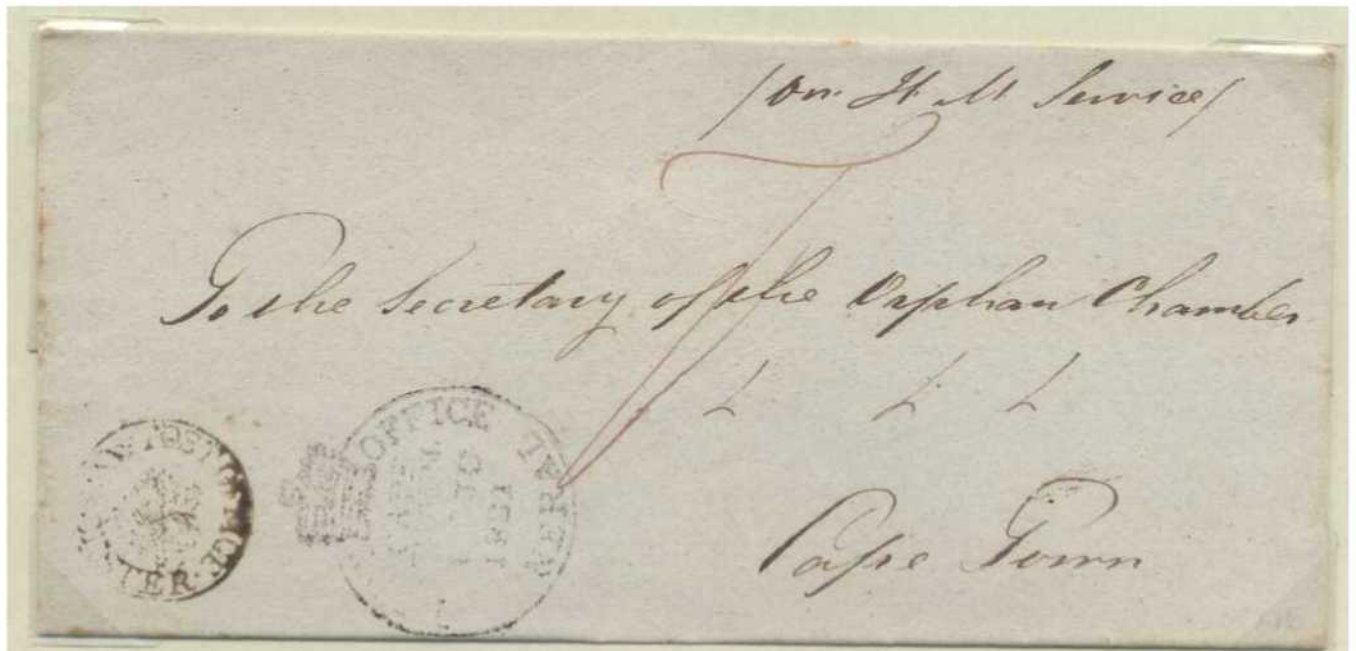
ISSUED 1828

Although the District Post Offices would use their handstamps for as many as 32 years, the First Dated Letter Stamp was judged too worn to use after only five years. Mr. Twentyman, Manufacturer of Plate Jewelry, etc. of 30 Heerengracht, Cape Town was commissioned to make the Second Dated Letter Stamp. Like the first, it was of brass.

Used at Cape Town both as arrival and dispatch stamp.



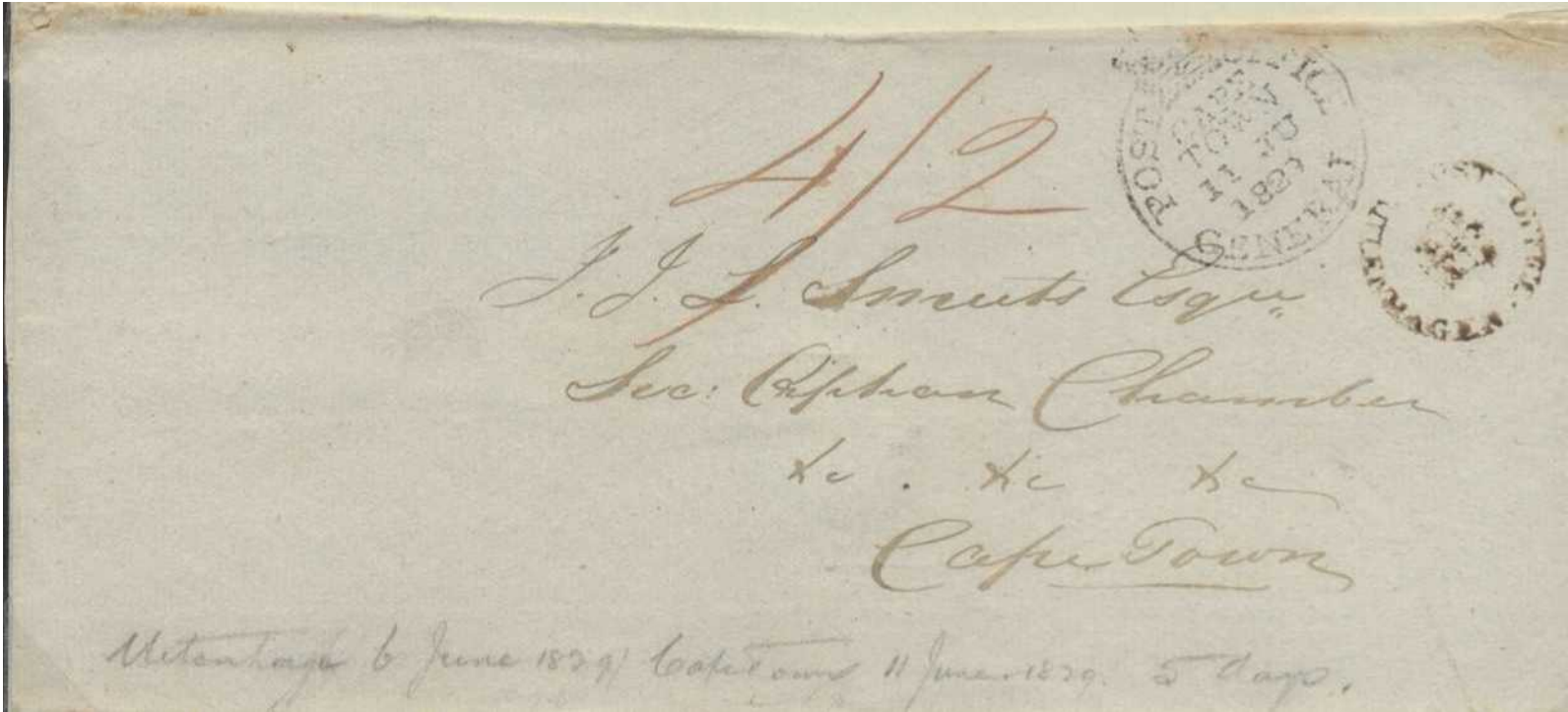
10d. single sheet rate of 1826 Uitenhage - Cape Town



7d. single sheet rate of 1826 Worcester - Cape Town

The Second Dated Letter Stamp

Postal rates of 1826 continued in effect on Eastern route until 1837. Rates of 1826 & 1834 on Northern route maintained until 1846_



Eastern Route

4s. 2d. Five sheet rate of 1837 Uitenhage - Cape Town



Northern Route

1s. double sheet rate of 1834 Tulbagh - Cape Town

Second Dated Letter Stamp



1828

Is. single sheet rate of 1826 Grahamstown - Cape Town.
Second dated letter stamp with month omitted.



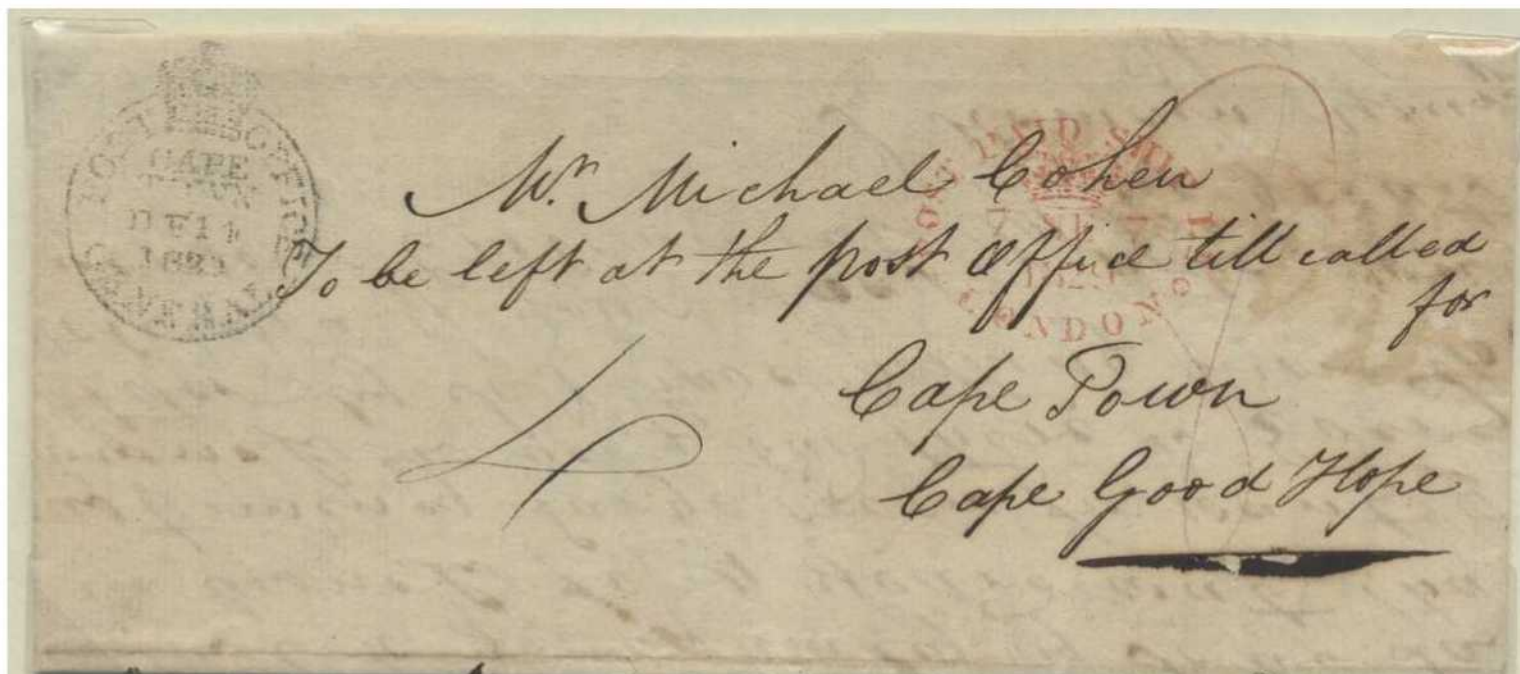
1830

7d. single sheet rate of 1826 Swellendam - Cape Town
Protocol for placement of single and double digit dates remained the same.

Second Dated Letter Stamp

1829

Postal Act of 1819 established a 4d. rate for letters up to 3oz. entering the UK from the Cape of Good Hope and a Sea Postage rate of 2d. on letters up to [3oz. to](#) the Cape. In 1826 a ship letter rate of 4d. per sheet established at Cape Town for incoming and outgoing letters.



4d. paid rate entered at London should be 2d. Perhaps the incoming rate and outgoing rate were confused. Proper 8d. unpaid double sheet rate entered at Cape Town.

Sender requests letter to be held until called for. With 8d. unpaid, request probably superfluous.



3d. single sheet rate Stellenbosch - Cape Town



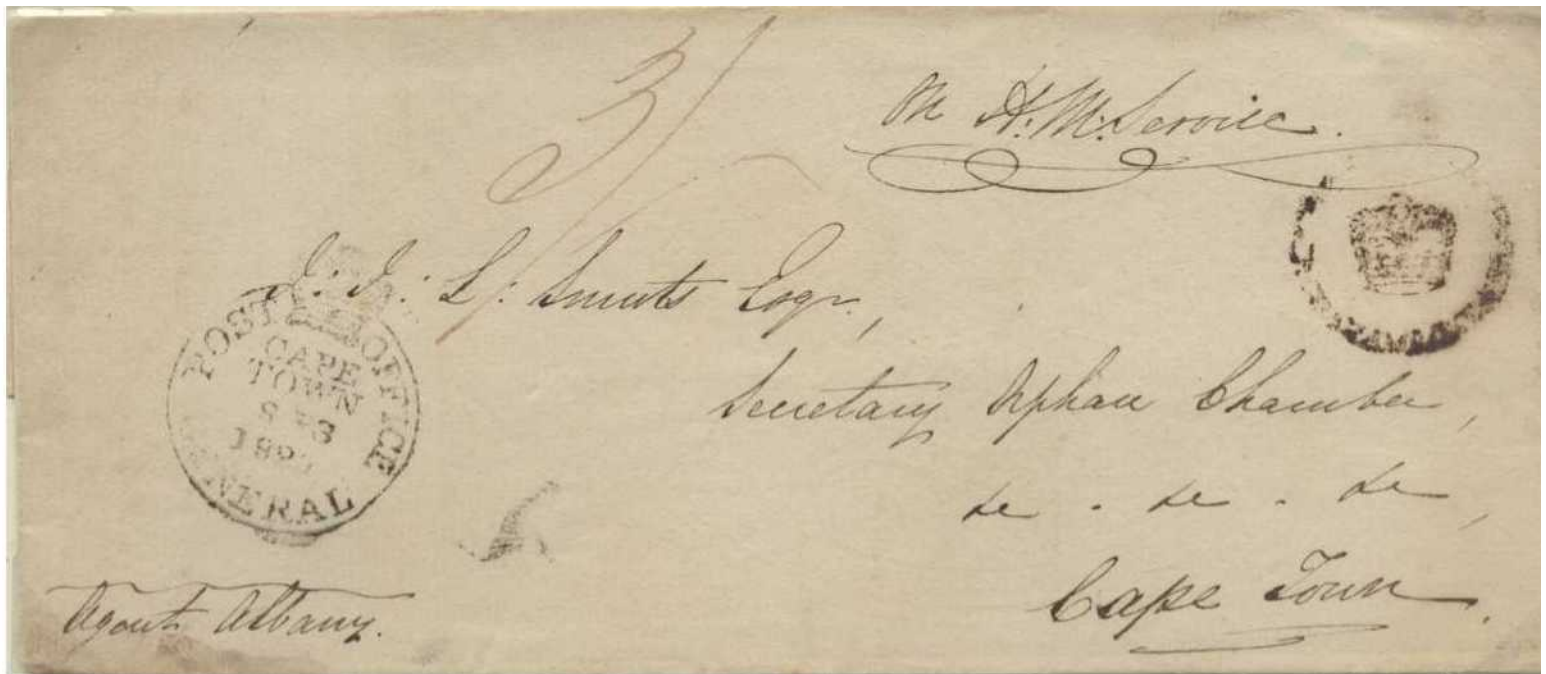
6d. double sheet rate Simonstown - Cape Town

Second Dated Letter Stamp

Agent's Correspondence

Directive of 8 February 1817, by Lord Charles Somerset, deleted Orphan Chamber from list of persons and entities entitled to send and receive letters free of postage.

"Agent" - The term applied to postmasters and "post holders", individuals authorized to act for the postmaster. Both were appointed by the Governor of the Colony on recommendation of the Landdrost or local district manager.



Sent through the post office at Grahamstown by the Agent at Albany and rated 3s. triple sheet rate of 1826 Grahamstown - Cape Town.

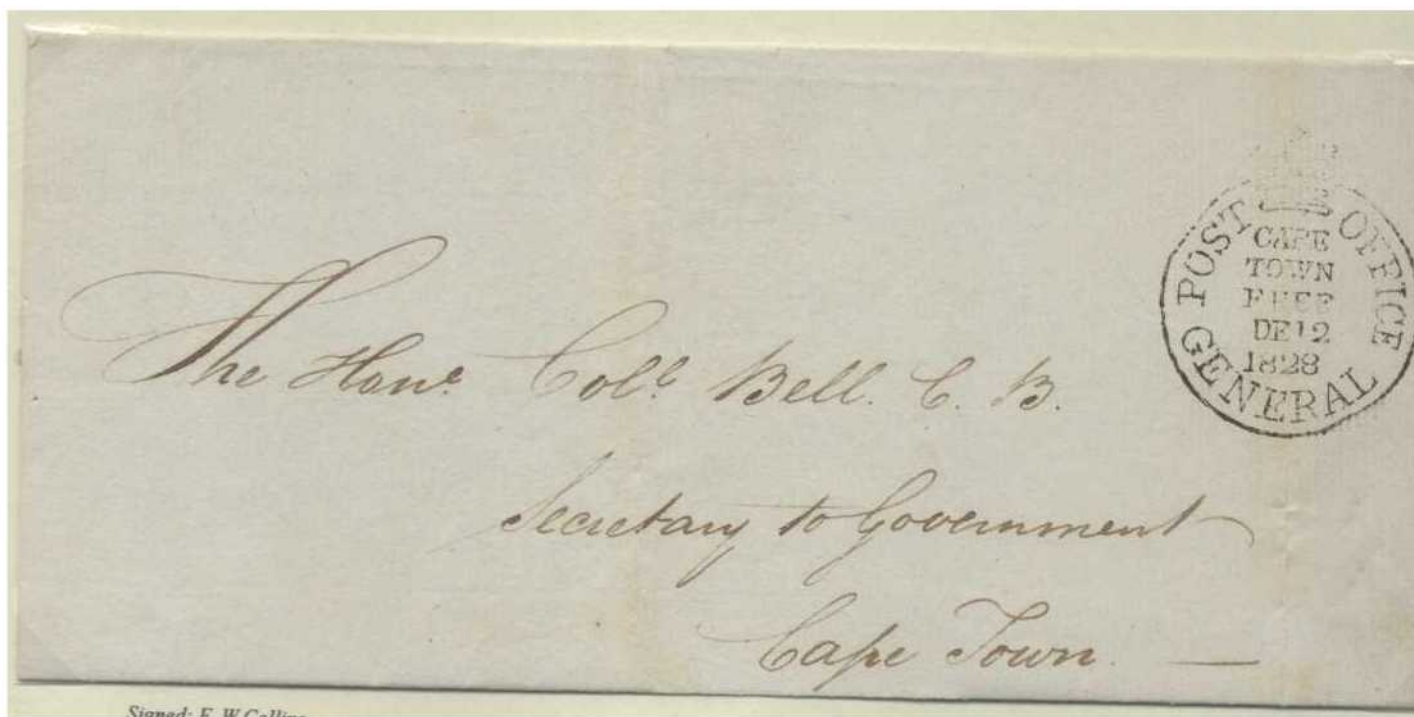
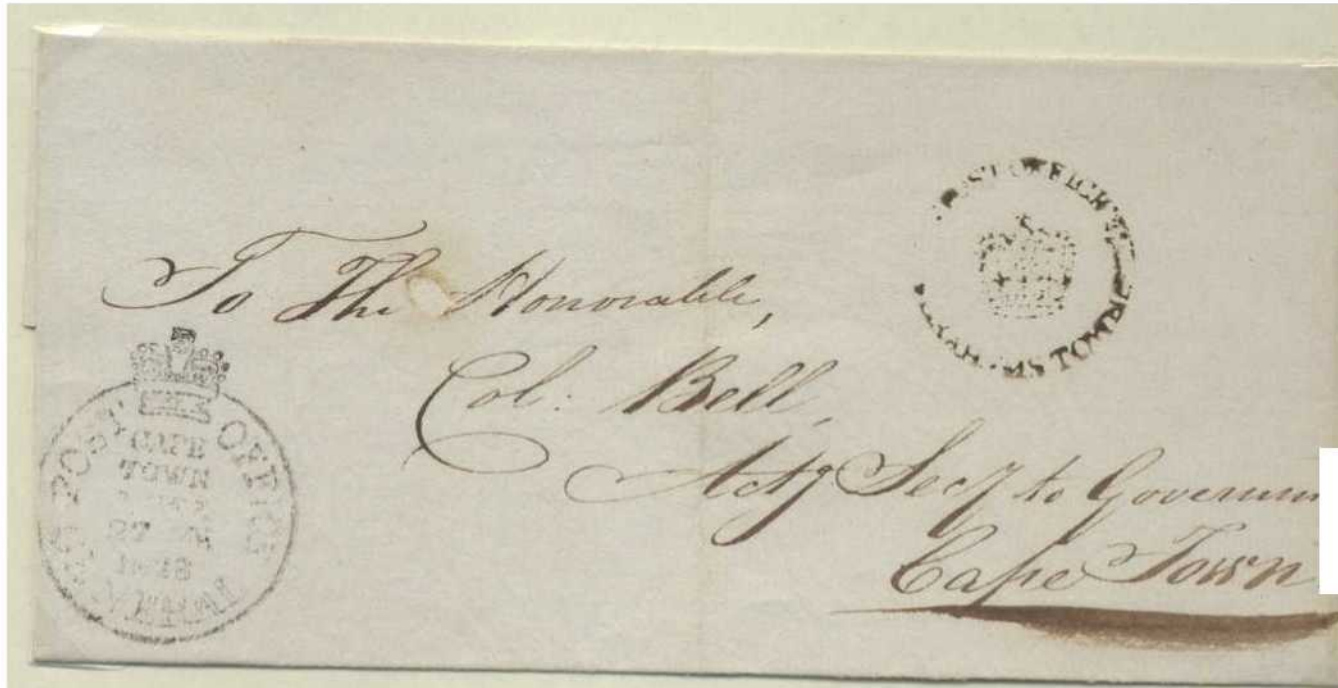


Letter from Agent at Somerset denied official status at Cape Town and rated 1s. Id. single sheet rate of 1826 Somerset - Cape Town.

Second Official Dated Letter Stamp

Issued 1828

Made from brass by Mr. Twentyman for X. 4. 1 Os. under the same contract as the Second Dated Letter Stamp and the Post Paid and To Pay stamps. This stamp remained in use six years.

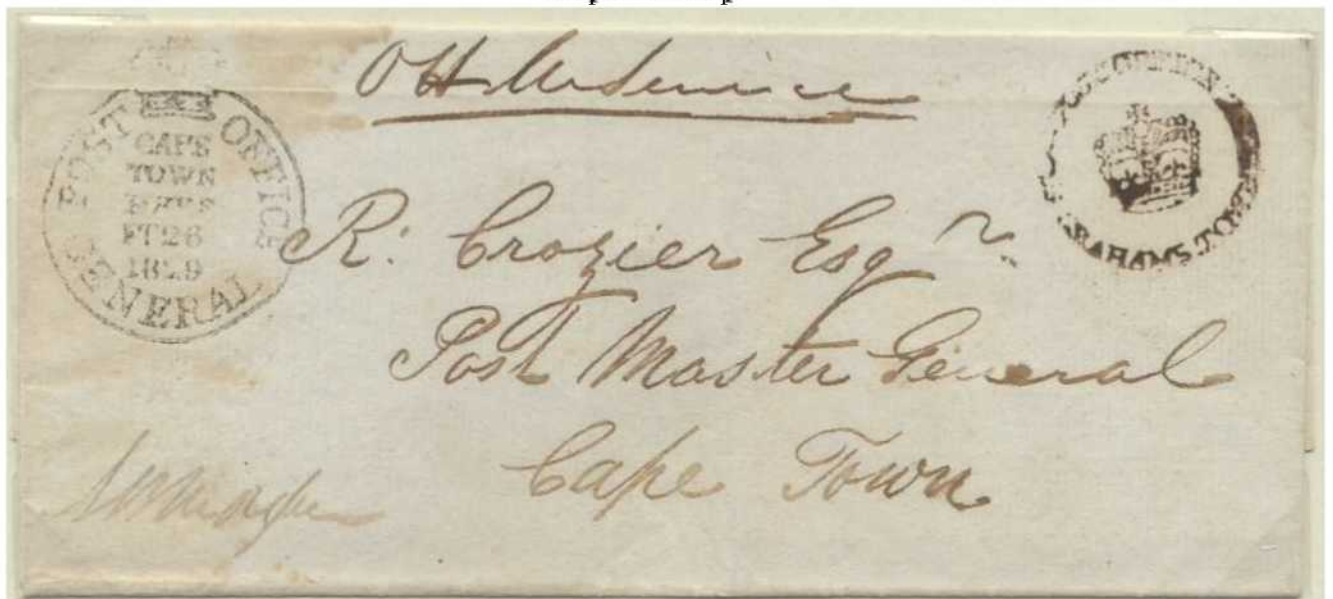


Letters to Col. John Bell, Secretary to Government 1826 - 1841.

Second Official Dated Letter Stamp



Dispatch stamp.



Arrival stamp.

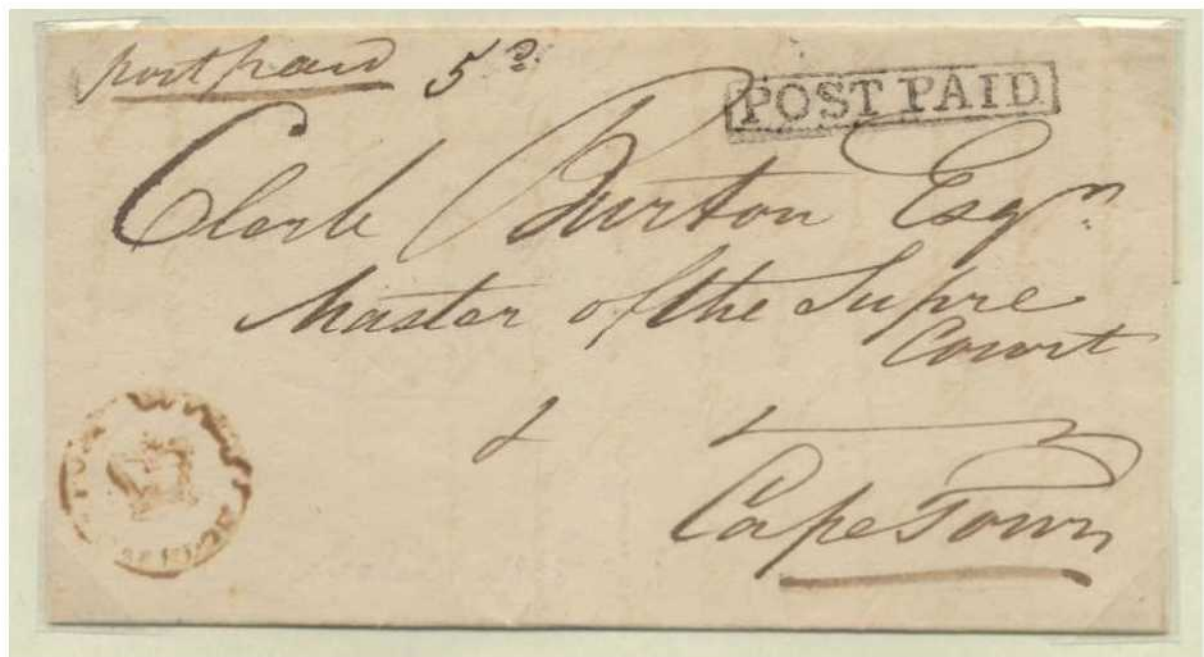
Post Paid Stamp

As prepayment of postage was now optional, Mr. Twentyman contracted to make POST PAID and TO PAY stamps in brass for £1. 2s.6d. each. These were used only at Cape Town. District postmasters required to enter postage paid in manuscript.



1829

10d. double sheet rate of 1826, Caledon - Cape town



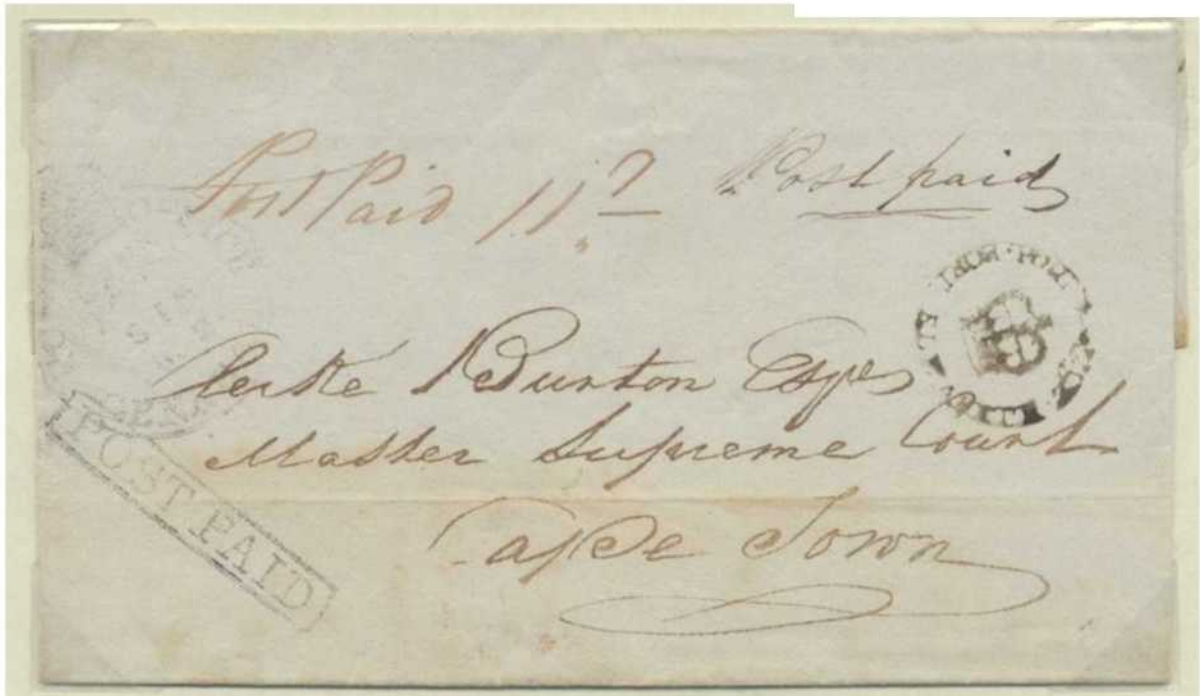
1838

5d. single sheet rate of 1826, Caledon - Cape Town

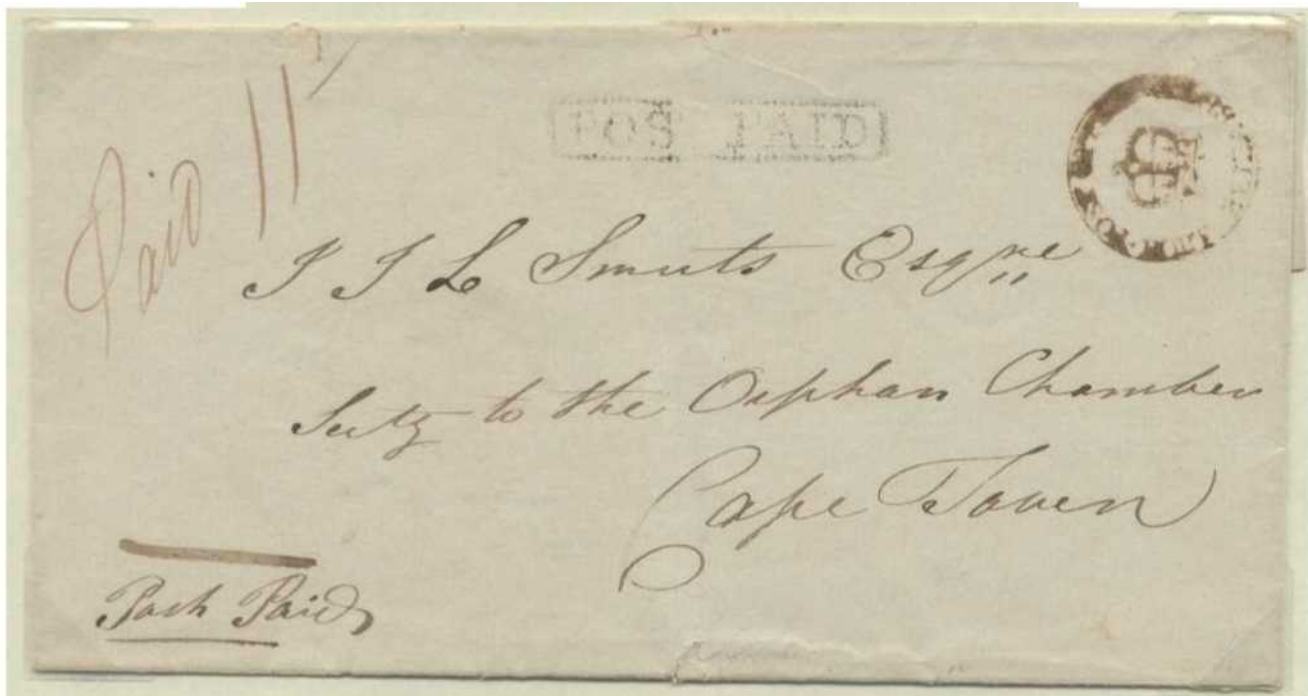
Post Paid Stamp

Issued 1827

The Second Dated Letter Stamp, the Second Dated Official Letter Stamp, the Post Paid Stamp and the initial To Pay stamp were all placed in use at Cape Town in February of 1827.



2nd. Dated Letter Stamp 'SE 8 1832' entered at Cape Town.



Both letters rated 1 ld. single sheet rate of 1826 at Port Elizabeth.

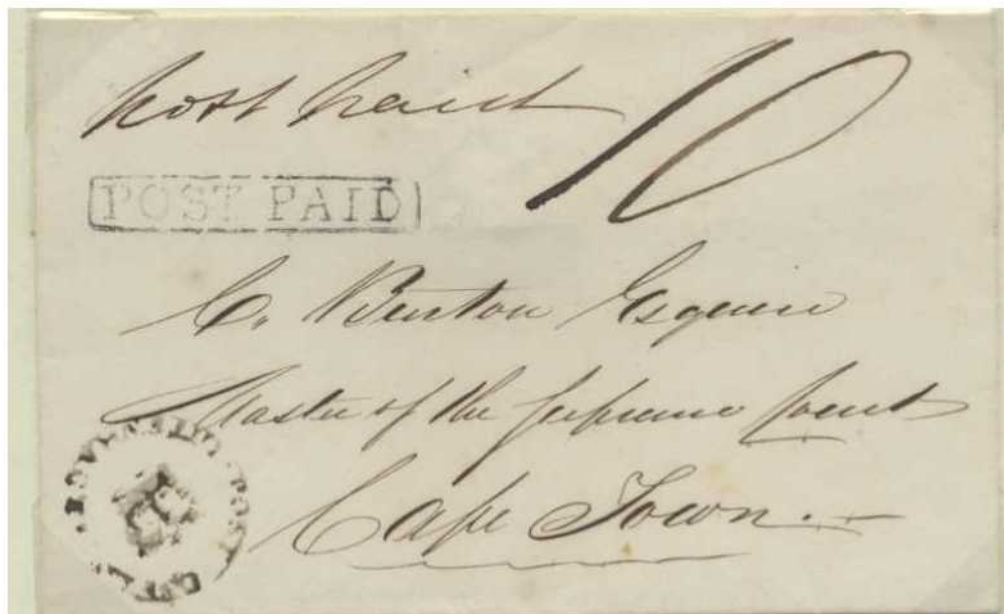
Post Paid Stamp

1830



[7d.ms.](#) single sheet rate of 1826 to Cape Town entered at Swellendam.

Post Paid Stamp



Uitenhage - Cape Town

Undated wrapper endorsed "Post Paid" and rated 10d. single sheet rate of 1826.

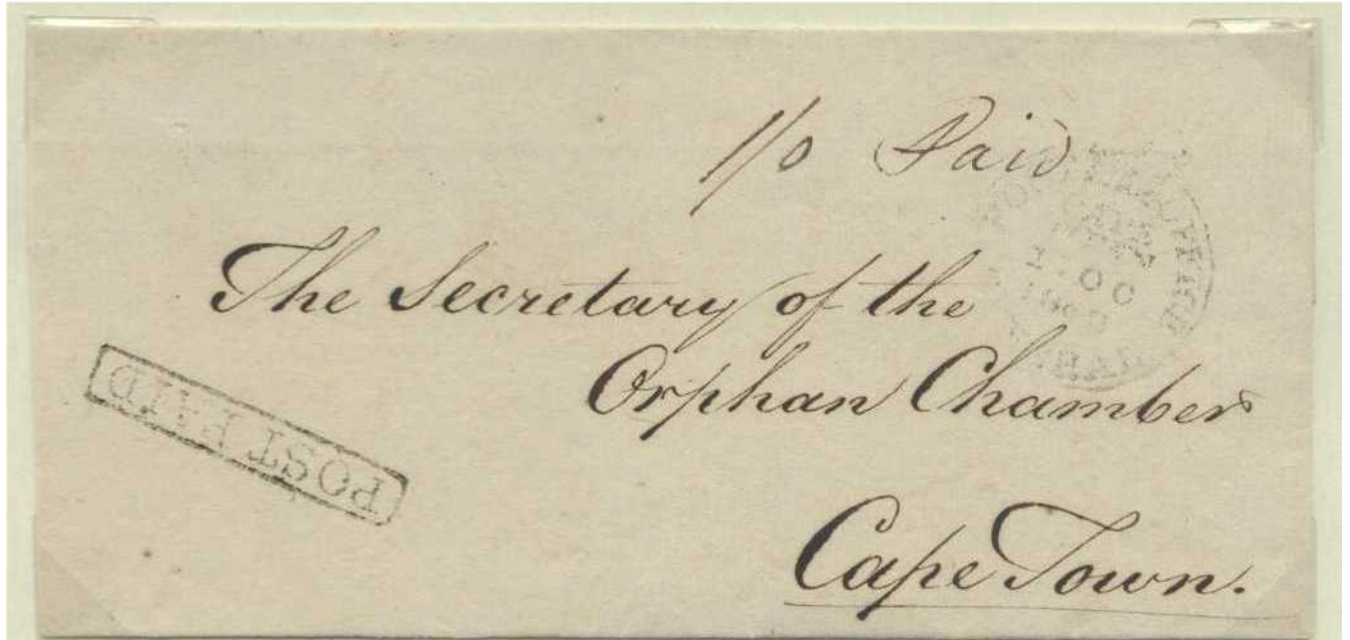


Uitenhage - Cape Town

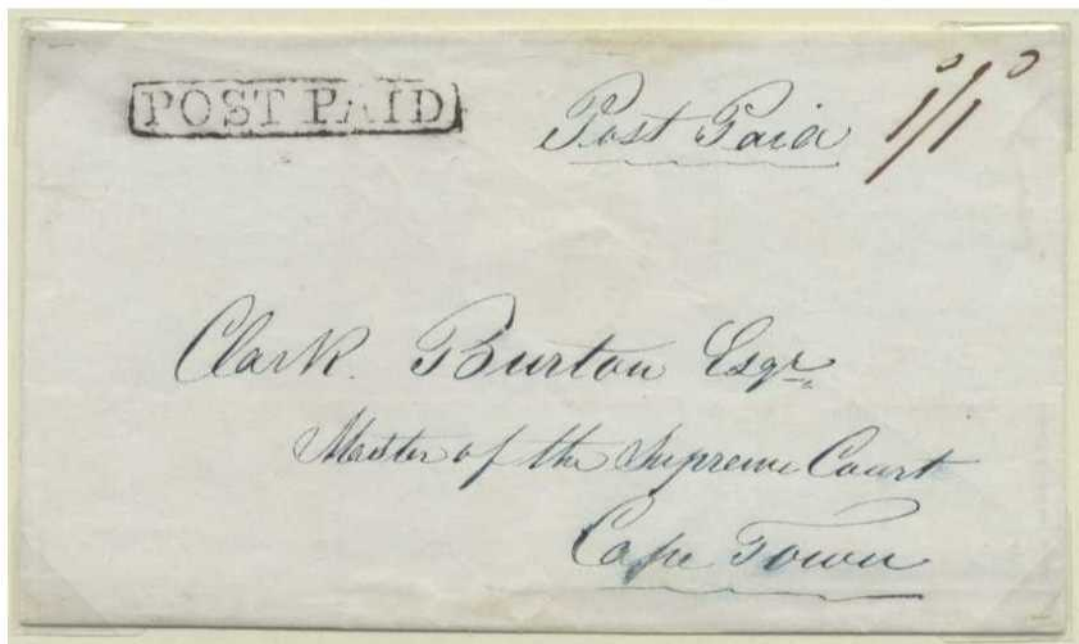
Letter with three enclosures endorsed "Postpaid JB" and rated 3s.4d. quadruple sheet rate of 1826.

Post Paid Stamp

After years of use, district post office letter stamps became unusable and were often omitted.



Is. single sheet rate of 1826 could have been entered at Grahamstown or Graaf-Reinet.



1 s. 1 d. 1826 single sheet rate from Bathurst, Port Frances, Somerset East, Cradock or Beaufort.

Post Paid Stamp
Overseas Mail



1842 letter London - Cape Town,
1s.4d.- 1oz. ship letter rate of
1840 entered at London.

8d. blue ms. double sheet ship
letter rate of 1826 entered at Cape
Town with Post Paid stamp.

Redirected by forwarding agents
Dickson - Bursia to addressee at
Brakfontein.

Enclosures added and letter
turned. Rated 1s.- 1oz. ship letter
rate of 1826 at Cape Town and
Third Dated Letter Stamp applied
but charged 2s.8d.- 2oz. ship
letter rate of 1840 at London.

TO PAY Stamp - Type 1

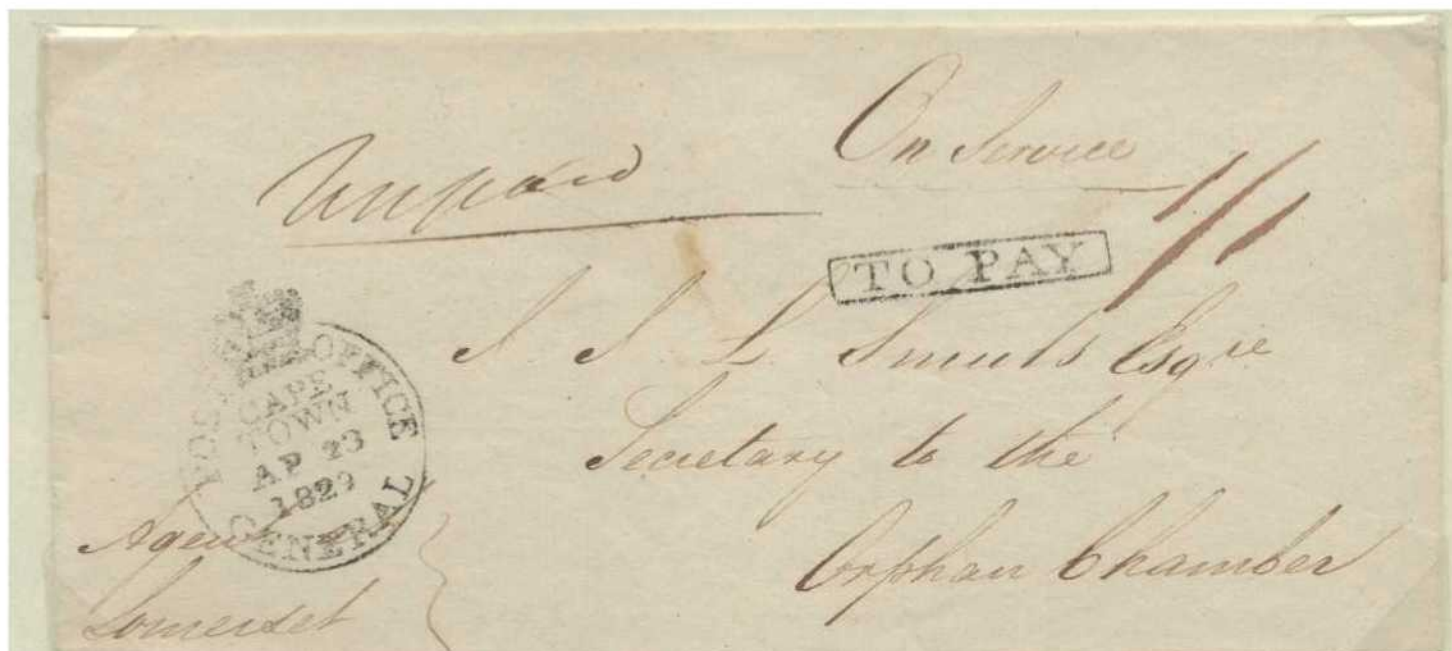
Issued 1827

Fourth of the brass stamps made by Mr. Twentyman for use at Cape Town. This saw less use than the Post Paid stamp as letters stamped with the latter were given preferential treatment.



Only recorded example in red ink.

Unpaid 1830 letter Paarl - Stellenbosch. Not rated. Single sheet rate of 1826 would be 2d.



Unpaid 1829 letter Somerset East - Cape Town. Rated 1s. Id. single sheet rate of 1826.

TO PAY Stamp - Type 1



17 July 1837

Unpaid 5d. single sheet rate of 1826 Cape Town - Caledon and 3rd. Dated Letter Stamp entered at Cape Town, 3rd. Dated Letter Stamp shows 17EY in error. 17JY correct.



28 June 1846

Unpaid wrapper incorrectly rated 1 s. 1/2d. Uniform 4d. inland rate established 1 March 1846. John Montague, not Thomas, served as Secretary to Government from 1842 to 1852. Office of Colonial Secretary created in 1854. Late use of 3rd. Dated Letter Stamp.

Mourning '%--- 'over

Late use of TO PAY stamp.



Nov. 16_ 1850

Elgin - Dundee - London - Cape Town - Kalk Bay

Cape markings:

TO PAY stamp.

4d. incoming ship letter rate of 1846 + 4d. inland 1/2oz. rate of 1846 + 8d_ black ms.

Double line Elgin dispatch stamp - NO 18, 1850

London markings:

"p Ship" red mss

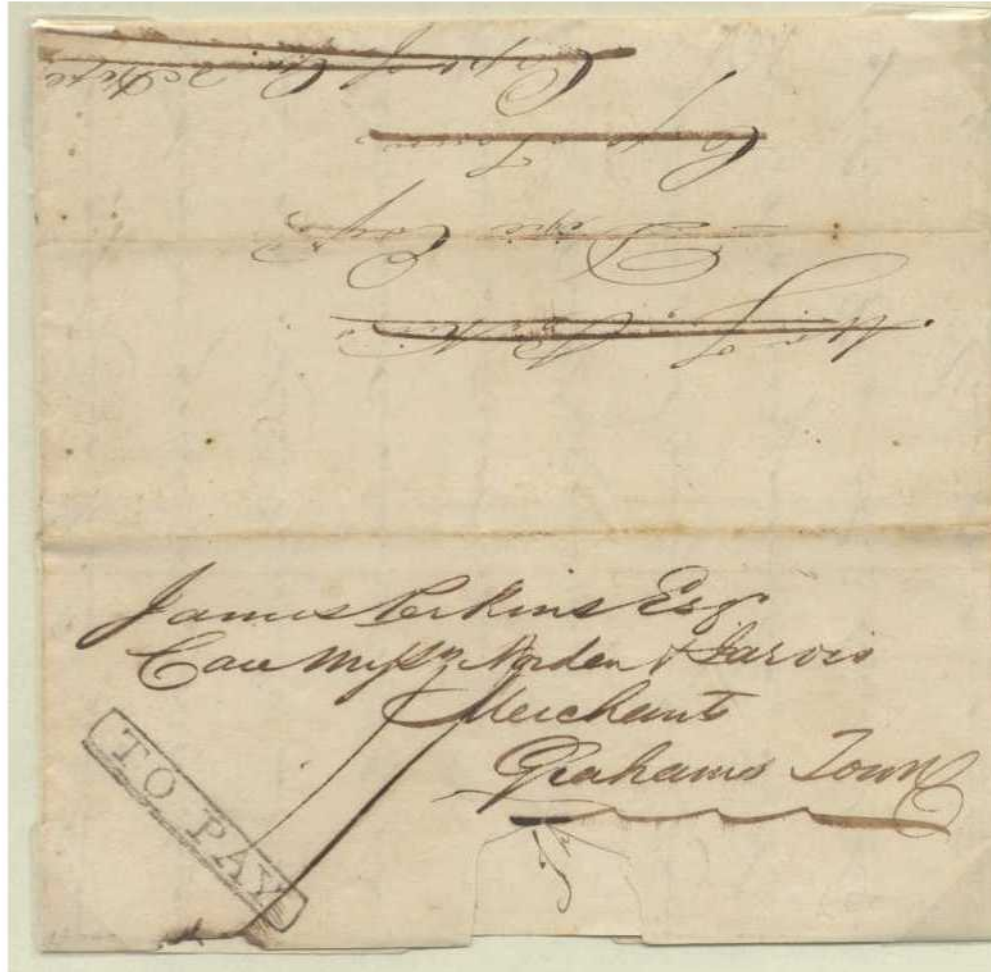
"8" red nis. 8d. ship letter rate of 1840.

London Dated Ship Letter stamp - NO 20, 1850

London transit stamp - NO 20, 1850.

TO - PAY STAMP - Type 1

Redirected Mail



Posted at Clampton, England 14 Aug. 1833 to Cape Town.

Probably carried aboard ship "by favor" as cover bears no London markings. Redirected to Grahamstown and stamped TO PAY at Cape Town.

Rated 1s. single sheet rate of 1826 Cape Town - Grahamstown.

Redirected mail.



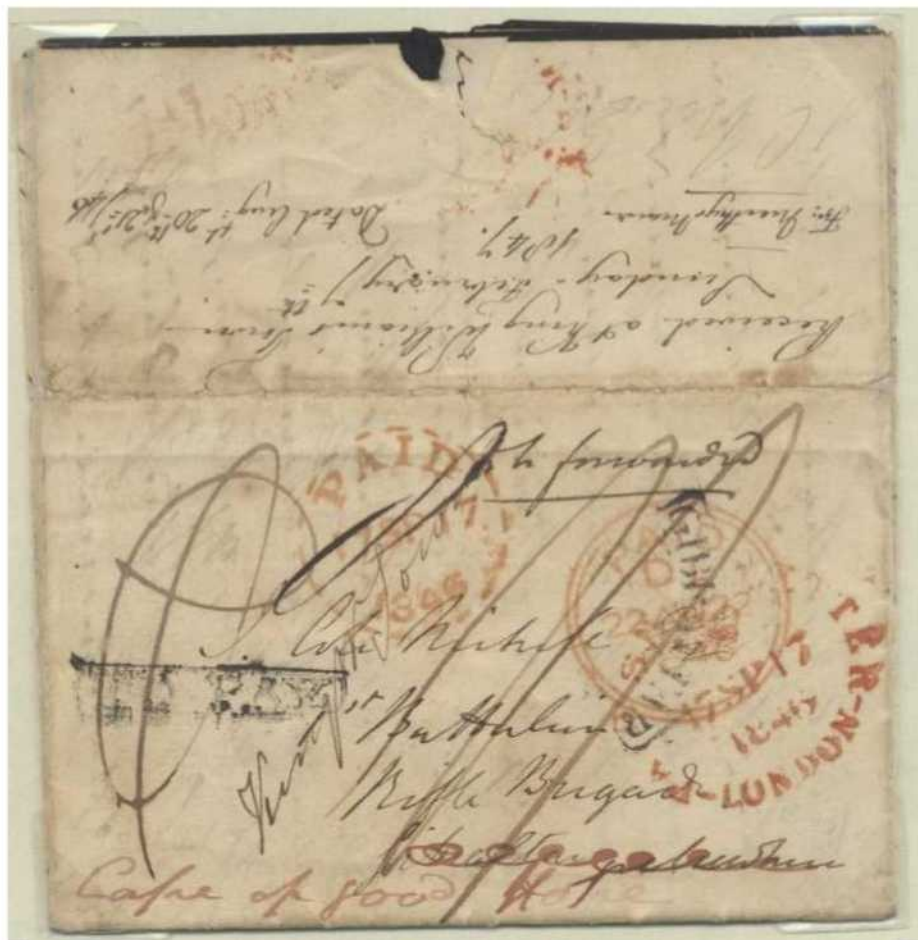
Posted at Elgin, Northern Scottish Highlands
Elgin - London - Cape Town - Caledon

Cape markings: 8d. Unpaid uniform ship letter rate of 1840. Red ms.
4d. incorrectly entered; deleted and 5d. inland rate of 1837 Cape Town -
Caledon entered.
TO PAY stamp.

Elgin dispatch and paid stamps - 10 Sep. 1842
London paid and Paid Ship Letter stamps 12 Sep. 1842

TO PAY Stamp - Type 1

Redirected mail.



1846

London - Gibraltar - London - Cape Town - King Williams Town

Letter posted Aug. 21/22, 1846. ms large "P" + ms Is. 1846 1/2 [oz. UK](#) - Gibraltar rate from Southampton entered London Ship Letter Office Aug. 22, 1846. Undated Gibraltar arrival stamp. Returned to London Sep. 17, 1846 and rated 8d., 1846 1/2 oz. ship letter rate UK - Cape Town. TO PAY stamp entered at Cape Town.

TO PAY Stamp - Type 2

Date of issue of this stamp unknown. In addition to Cape Town, it was issued to a small number of the larger but unidentified post offices. The first TO PAY stamp used outside Cape Town. It measures 36 1/2mm x 5mm with smaller letters than Type I which measures 36mm x 6mm.



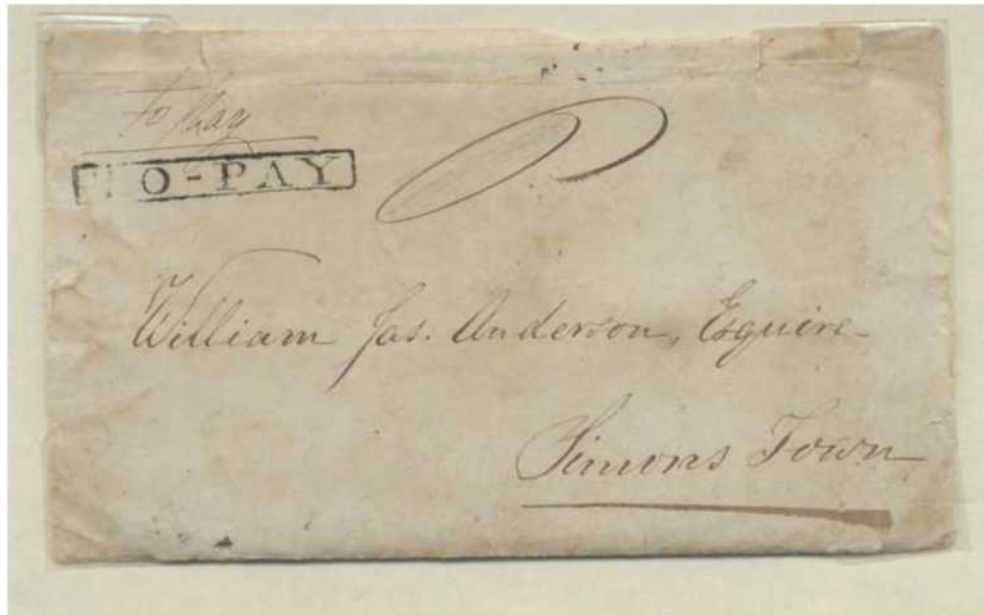
Rated at Cape Town 4d. uniform incoming ship letter rate of 1846 + 4d. General Post Office routine charge for inland delivery = 8d.

Rated at London 8d. uniform ship letter rate of 1840 for letters up to 1/2 oz. Carried letter to port of entry.

TO - PAY Stamp - Type 3

Hyphenated - 4mm. Letters.

Manufacturer and date of issue unrecorded. Unrecorded limited distribution to small number of post offices late in 1823 - 1853 period when boxed TO PAY stamps were used.



Rated 6d. double sheet rate of 1837 Cape Town - Simonstown

TO - PAY Stamp - Type 4

Hyphenated - 3mm. Letters.

As with Type 3, no archival record of date of issue or post offices receiving the stamp exists.



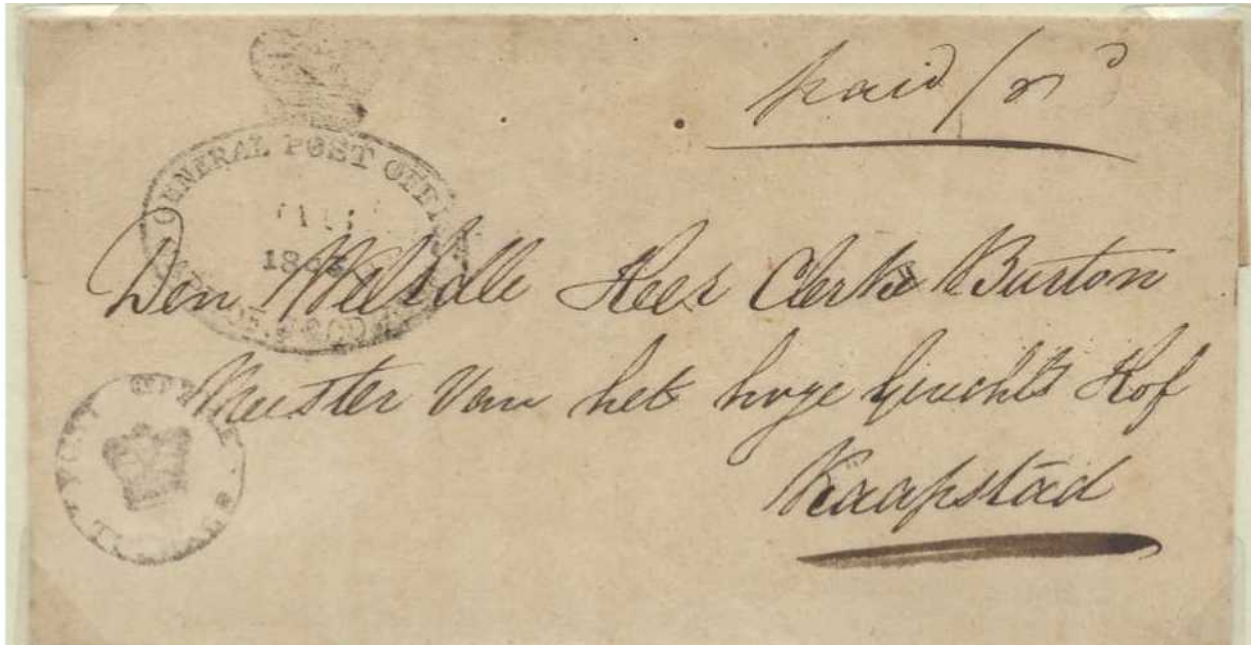
Paarl - Cape Town - Grahamstown

Denied official status at Cape Town and rated Is. 1837 single sheet rate Cape Town - Grahamstown.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

Issued 1834

Last of the dated letter stamps used at Cape Town. Made of steel rather than brass by unknown artisan at a cost of f. 8. The reason for change from circular to oval is unknown.



Tulbagh - Cape Town.
1s.6d. triple sheet rate of 1826.



Graaf-Reinet - Cape Town

1s. single sheet rate of 1826 Graaf-Reinet - Cape Town.
"Paid" ms. entered by sender and deleted at Cape Town. "1sh. postpaid" ms. entered at Cape Town with 3rd. Dated Letter Stamp and Post Paid stamp.

Third Dated Letter Stamp



Ship letter rated 4d., 1826 single sheet rate for letters entering the colony. Presumably carried "by favor" on ship "Courier".



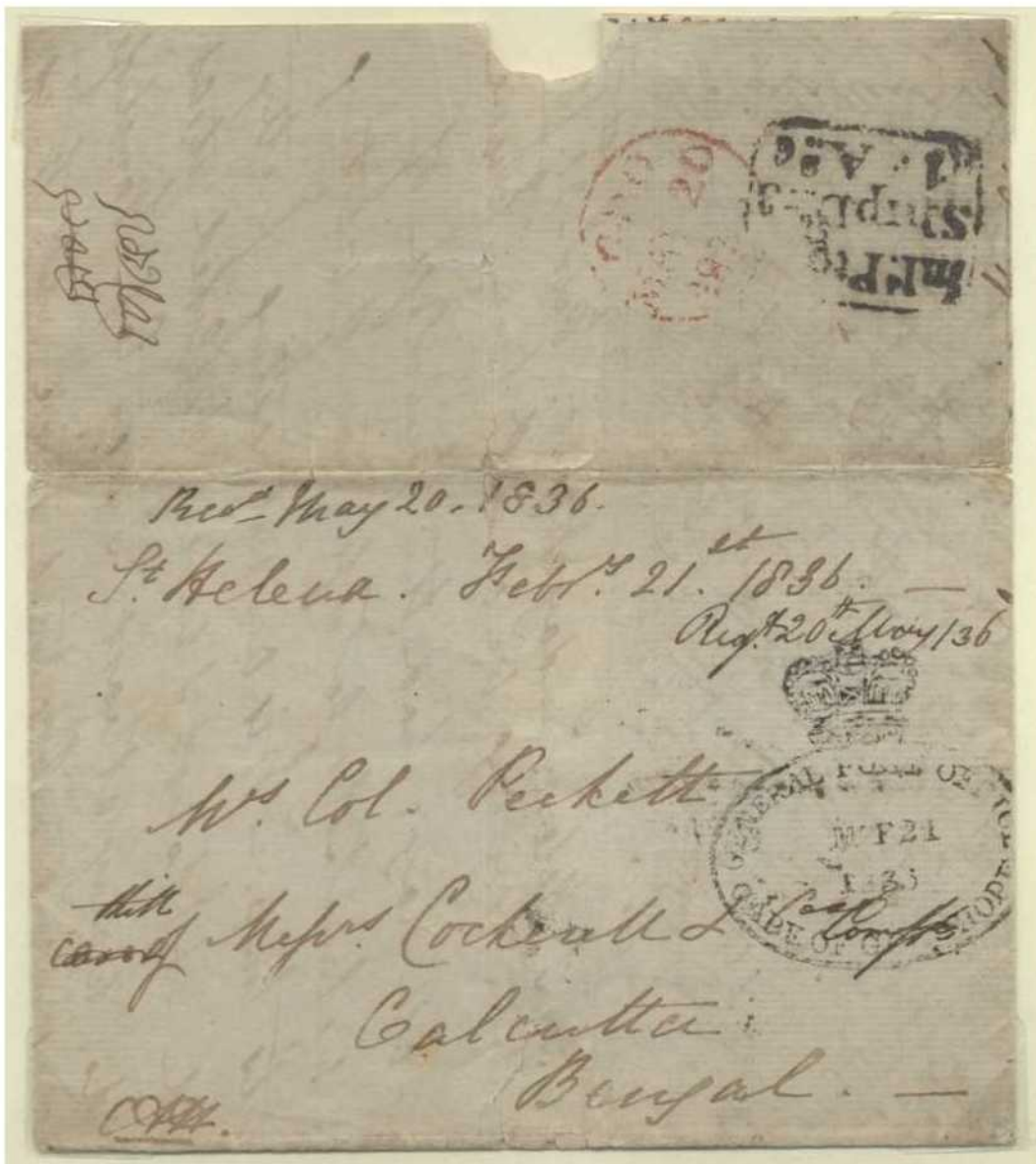
Cape Town - Uitenhage

Rated 10d. single sheet rate of 1826 Cape Town - Uitenhage at Cape Town where Third Dated Letter stamp and Post Paid stamp applied.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

Transit Stamp

Letter contents indicate writer placed it aboard outgoing ship to Calcutta from St. Helena to be carried "by favor". Probably placed in bag of India letters at Cape Town and stamped Mar. 21, 1836 with third dated letter stamp but not rated.



Collins & Holcombe certificates

Calcutta arrival stamp GPO May 20, 1836. Charged 1As.6 by Calcutta inland postage ship letter stamp.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

Local Post

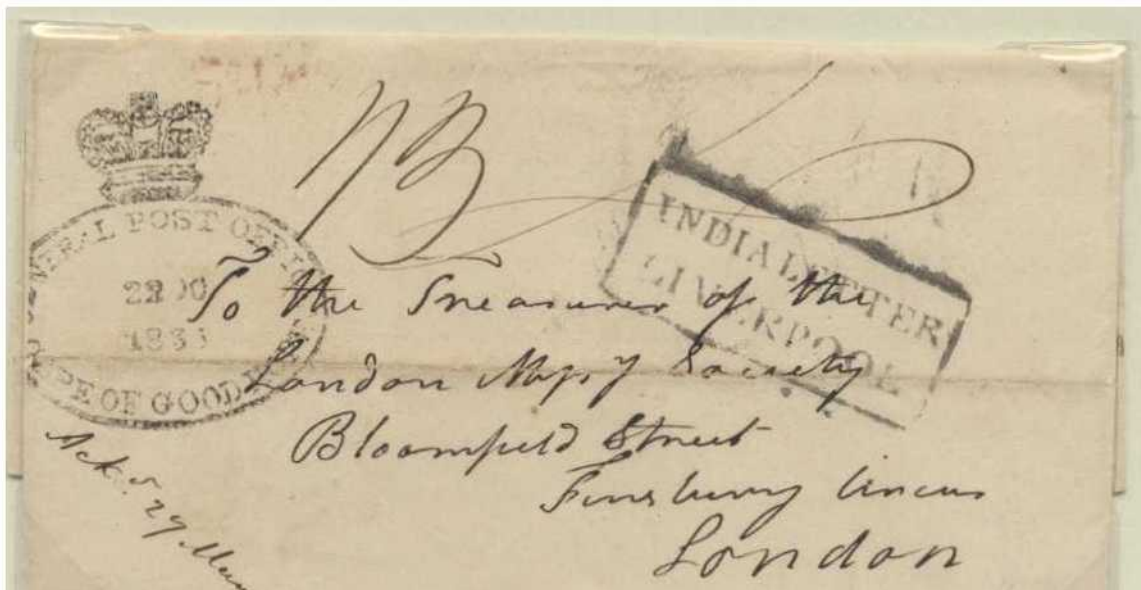


Masonic Lodge "The Hope" printed circular dated 13 August 1833 requesting attendance at Lodge meeting. Third dated letter stamp applied 16 August 1833. What appears to be a "1" in faint blue ink may be the ld. local letter rate later authorized by proclamation on 12 February 1846. Examples of local mail are rare.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

India Ship Letters

From its inception, the East India Company carried the bulk of the mail between the Batavian Republic, India, the Cape of Good Hope and England. By 1799, the revenue was considerable and the English Ship Letter Act of 1799 sought to capture some of this for the government postal service. Reluctant to lose this and powerful enough to largely circumvent provisions of the act, the Company obtained a concession in the Ship Letter Act of 1819 which established a 4d. India ship letter rate for letters not exceeding 3oz.



Cape Town - London via. Liverpool

Rated 4d. the single sheet ship letter rate of 1826 at Cape Town.

Charged 4d. India ship letter rate + 11 d. inland rate Liverpool - London = 1 s. 3d.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

India Ship Letters



1837
Cape Town - London

4d. overseas single sheet rate of 1826 paid at Cape Town.

4d. India ship letter rate from Cape + 9d. inland rate Cowes - London = 1s. 1 d. entered at London.

8s.4d. accountancy mark for packet of letters.

India Ship Letters

Letter with enclosures raising weight to 1oz. noted in manuscript at Cape Town. "per Boyn" noted by sender but East India Co. ship Boyne made only two voyages for the Company in 1820-21.



Cape markings:

1s.2d. deleted and correctly charged 1s. the 1 oz. rate of 1826.

London markings:

4d. India ship letter rate.

2s.8d. inland rate Portsmouth - London.

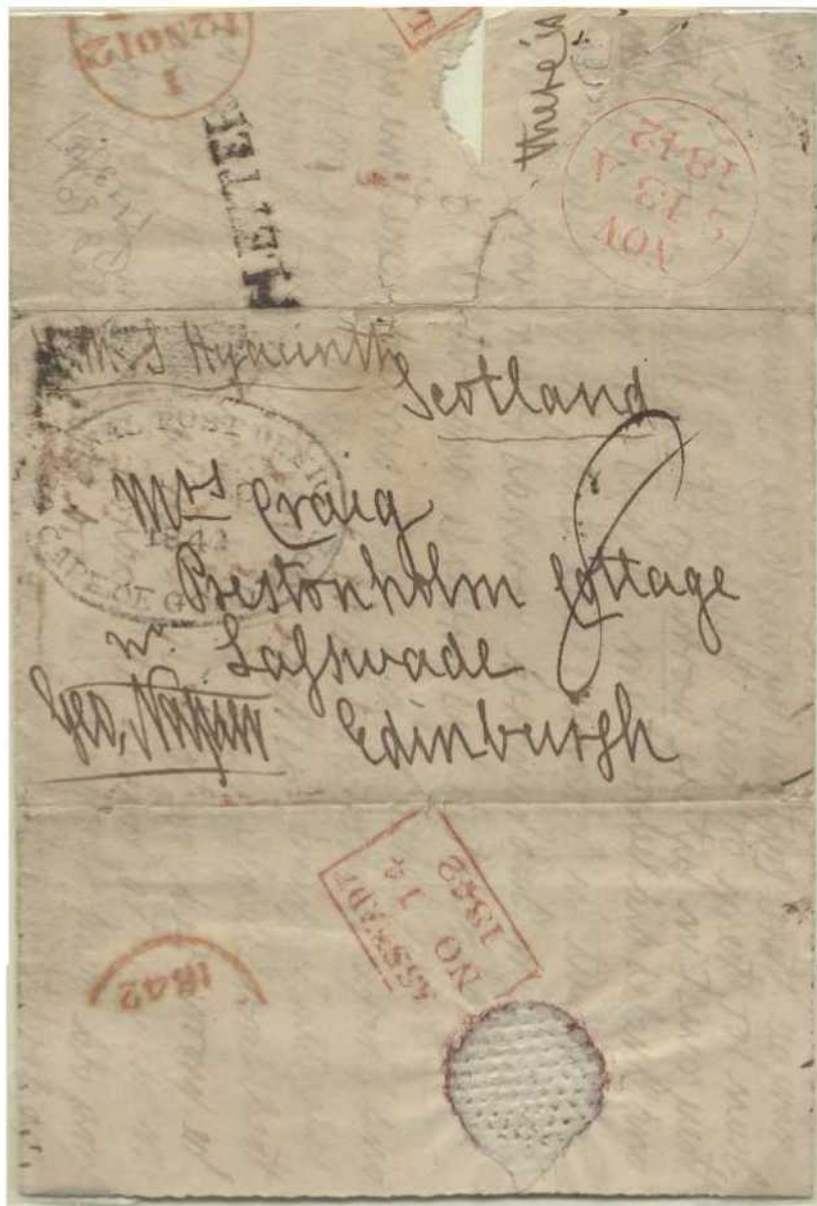
3s.

Third Dated Letter Stamp

Ship Letter by private vessel.

HMS HYACINTH

Third dated letter stamp applied at Cape Town. Not rated at Cape for unknown reasons. Should have qualified for uniform ship letter "in all rate of 8d. - 1/2oz.



Rated 8d. 1/2oz. uniform London ship letter rate of 1840 included inland delivery anywhere in British Isles eliminating need for port of entry ship letter stamps.

International Mail



Port Louis, Mauritius - Marseille via. Cape Town - London - Paris - Boulogne

Markings:

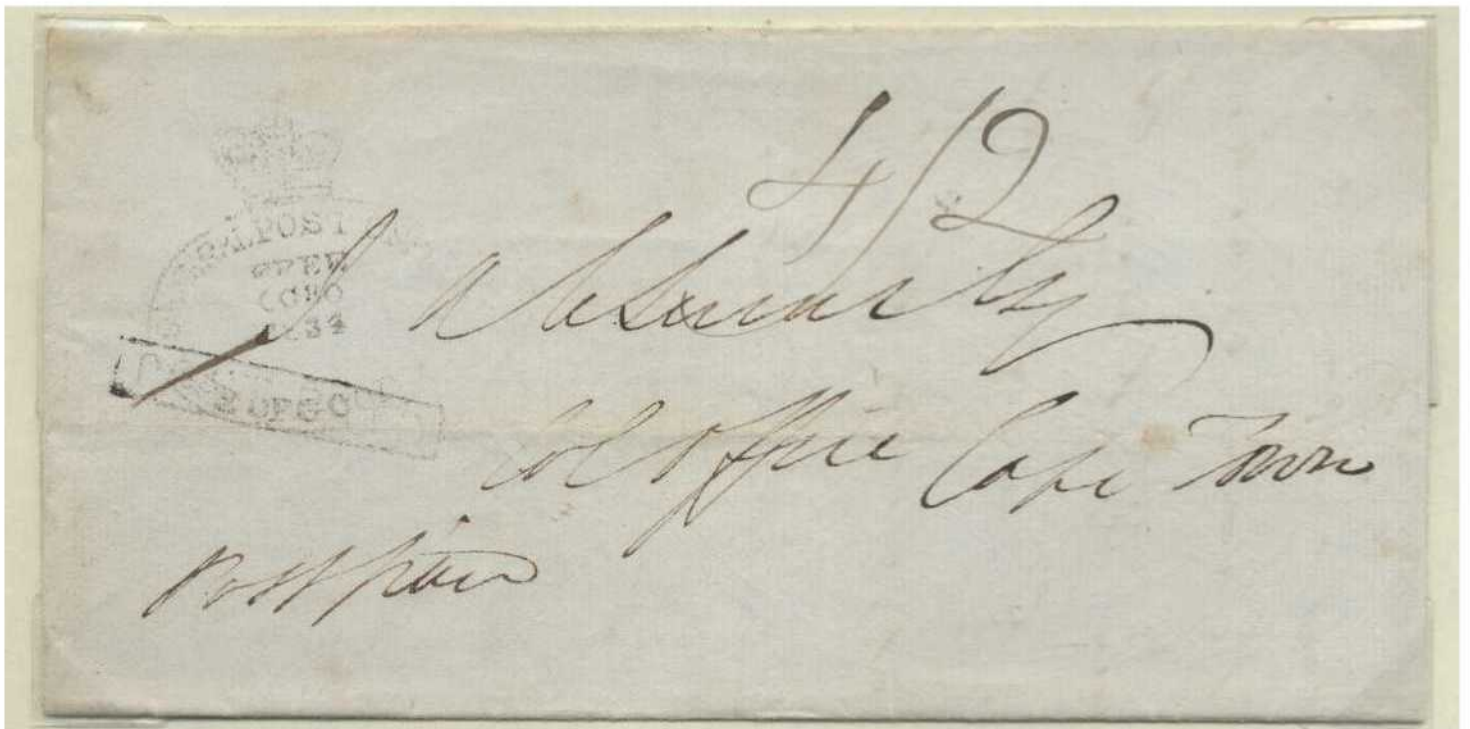
3rd. Dated Letter Stamp - Cape Town
London Ship Letter Stamp
Anglo-French Treaty Stamp.
London transit stamp - Sep. 17, 1844.
Paris transit stamp - Sep. 19, 1844.
Boulogne transit stamp - Sep. 19, 1844
Marseille arrival stamp - Sep. 22, 1844

Rates:

8d. Cape ship letter rate of 1840.
80 decimes due London Post Office
11 decimes inland rate to Marseille
91 decimes due under Article 12 of
Anglo-French Treaty of April 3, 1843.

Third Official Dated Letter Stamp

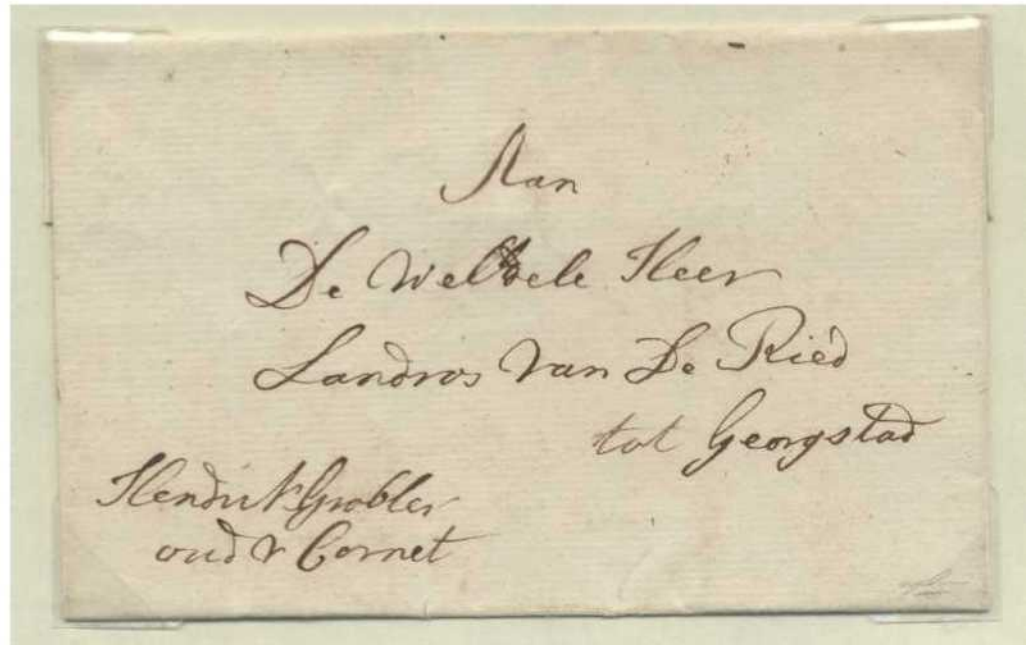
Issued 1834



Entire letter from Beaufort to the Colonial Office with three sheet enclosures. Marked Post Paid and incorrectly rated [4s.2d. at](#) Beaufort. Quadruple sheet rate of 1826 would be 4s.4d. Stamped Post Paid at Cape Town and Third Dated Official Letter Stamp apparently applied in error rather than the Third Dated Letter Stamp.

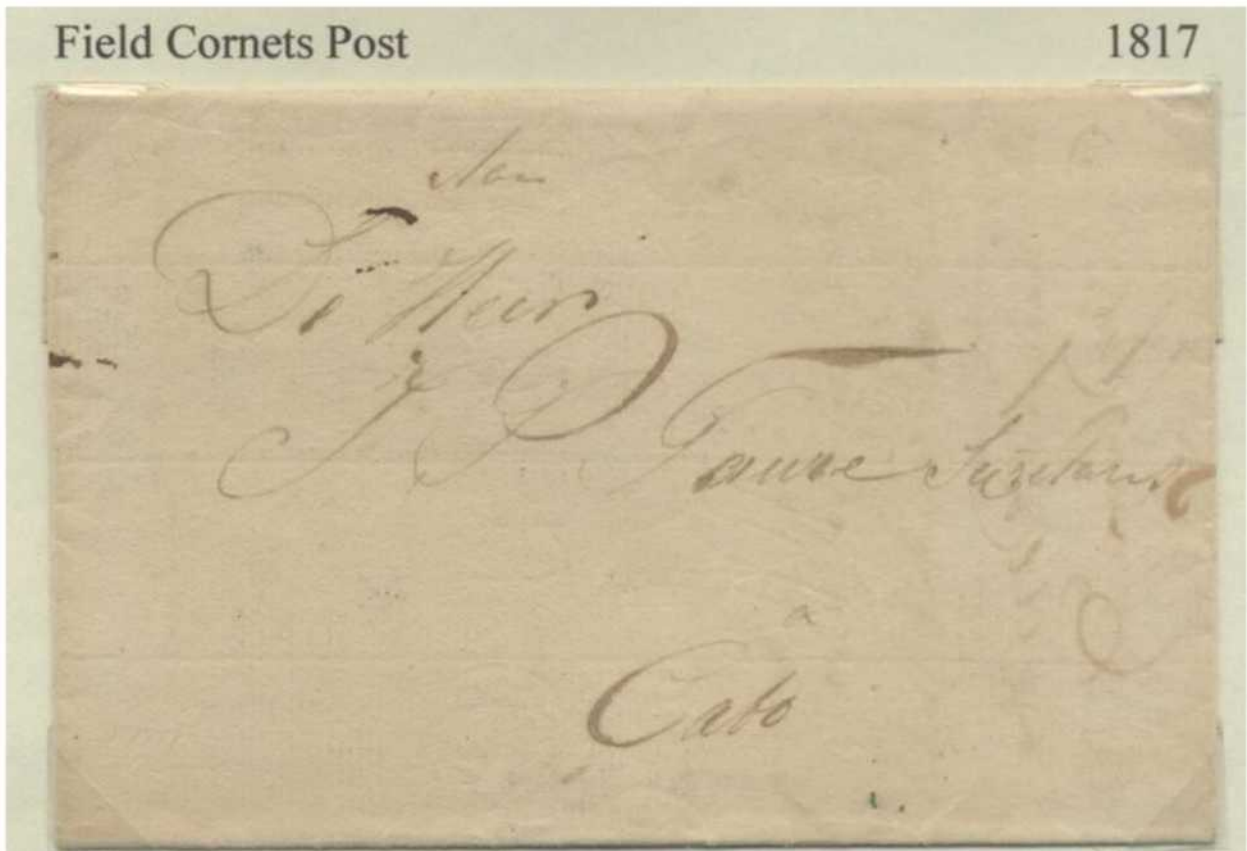
Field Comets Post

Initiated in 1693 to carry government dispatches to district officials. Field Comets appointed by the Landdrost or chief magistrate of the Drostdy or district. Reorganized by Lt. W.B.B. Pavaracini di Capelli in 1803 to include provision for postal services to the public over inland routes. The Field Comets continued to be an integral part of the postal system throughout the 19th. century.

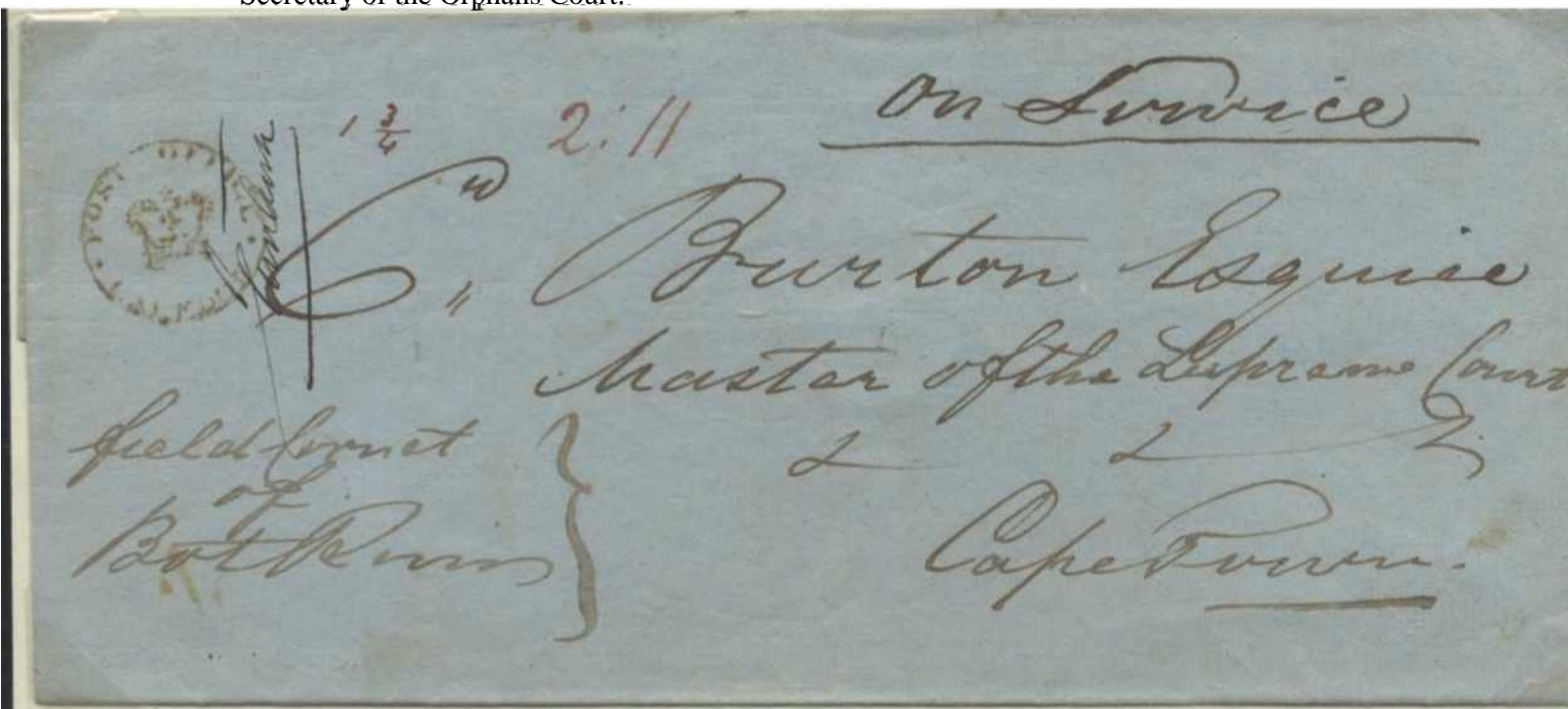


Undated, unrated wrapper Grobler - Landdrost at George

District of George opened 23 April 1811. Nine cornetices established and two added in 1817. H. GROBLER appointed Field Comet for Oliphant River, 45 miles north of the town of George.



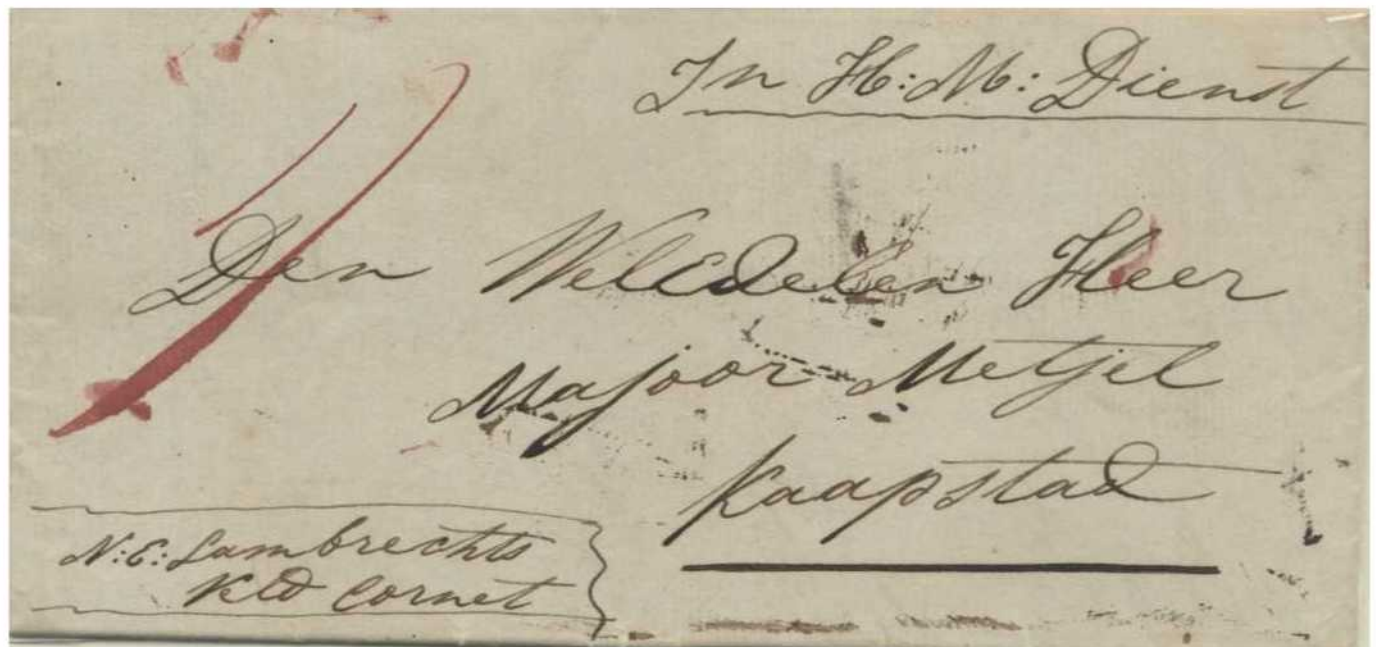
St. Helena Bay - Cape Town
Unrated official letter, Field Cornet G.H. Laubscher at St. Helena Bay to G.C. Traure, Secretary of the Orphans Court.



Bot River - Caledon - Cape Town
Bot River, 35 miles west of Caledon and 55 miles east of Cape Town served by a Field Cornet appointed in 1813.

Field Comets Post

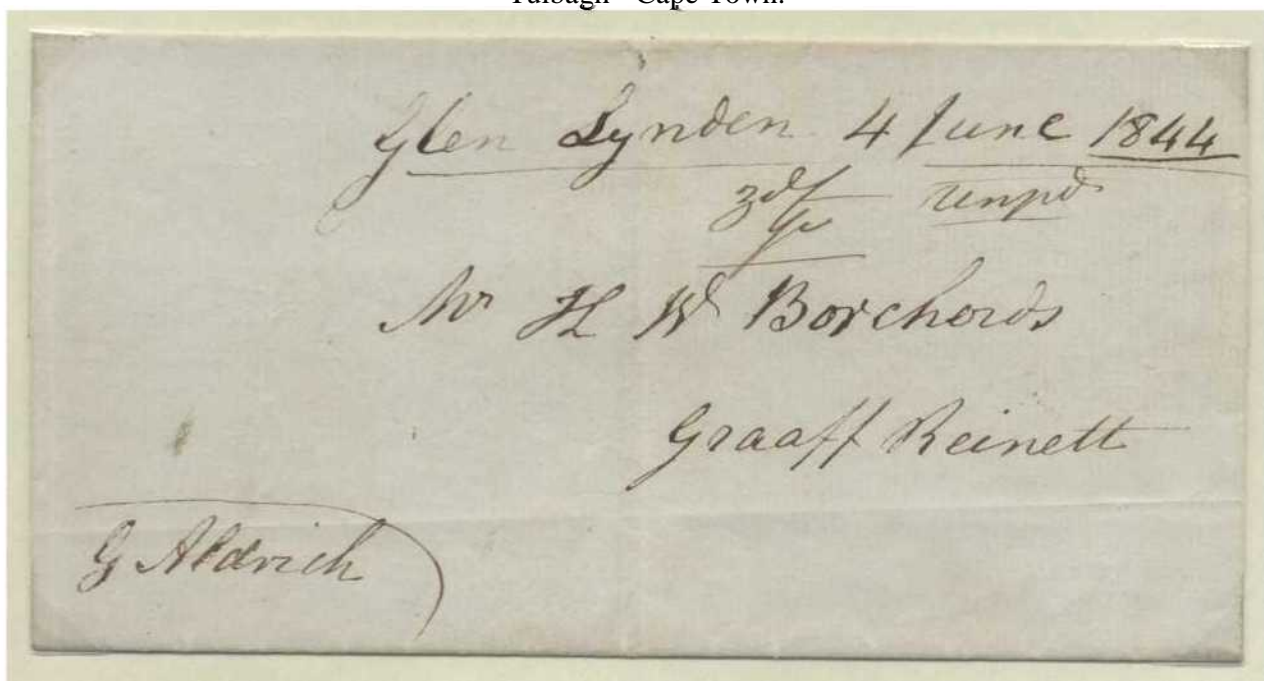
1842 & 1844



1842

N.E. Lambrechts - Field Cornet at Tulbagh

Official status denied at Cape Town. Rated Is. unpaid double sheet rate of 1826
Tulbagh - Cape Town.



1844

G. Aldrich, Field Cornet - Bavarian River

ms. [3d. pg](#) unpaid single sheet Somerset East - Graaf Reinett cross post rate of 1826.

Facsimile Signature on Official Mail

1828

To halt widespread abuse of free franking privilege, Government Minute of 30 December 1824 ordered all correspondence relating to public business from government departments or individuals be made through the Colonial Secretary who would certify them with his signature or a facsimile. Widely ignored it was abolished by Government notice December 9, 1852.



Four examples of P. G. Brink signature known.

Cape Town to Swellendam certified by facsimile signature of P. G. Brink and Second Dated Letter Stamp inexplicably applied at Cape Town rather than Second Official Dated Letter Stamp.

Pieter Gerhard Brink served as Acting Secretary to Government for only 25 weeks from June to November in 1824. Replaced 23 November 1824 by Sir Richard Plaskett. Above letter stamped four years after Herr Brink had left office.



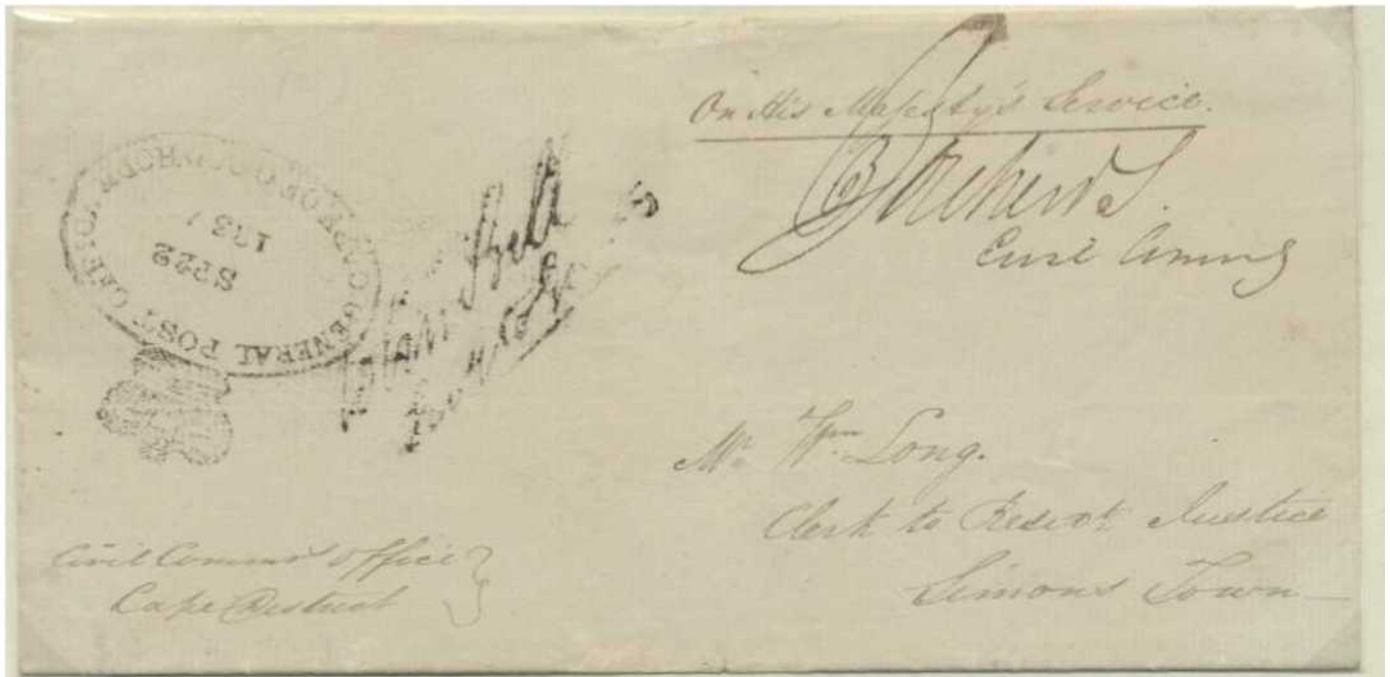
Third Official Dated Letter Stamp



Facsimile signature of Col. John Bell, Secretary to Government 1826 - 1841

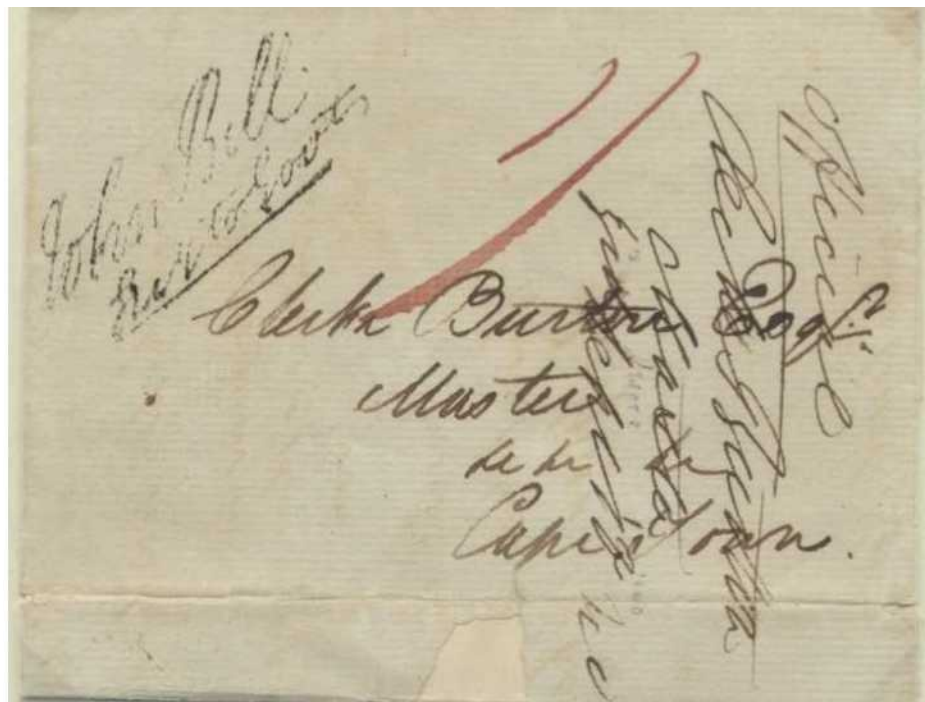
Facsimile Signature on Official Mail

1837 - 1840



1837

Wrapper Cape Town - Simonstown official status attested by signature of Civil Commissioner of Cape District, P. B. Borchers, and confirmed by facsimile signature of Col. John Bell



1840

Rated Is. unpaid at Graaf-Reinet or Grahamstown, official status requested by addressee, Clerke Burton, Master of Supreme Court and authorized by facsimile signature of Col. John Bell..



Double impression of Third Official Dated Letter Stamp.

Facsimile signature of J.M. Craig, Acting Secretary to Government
June 1841 - September 1842.

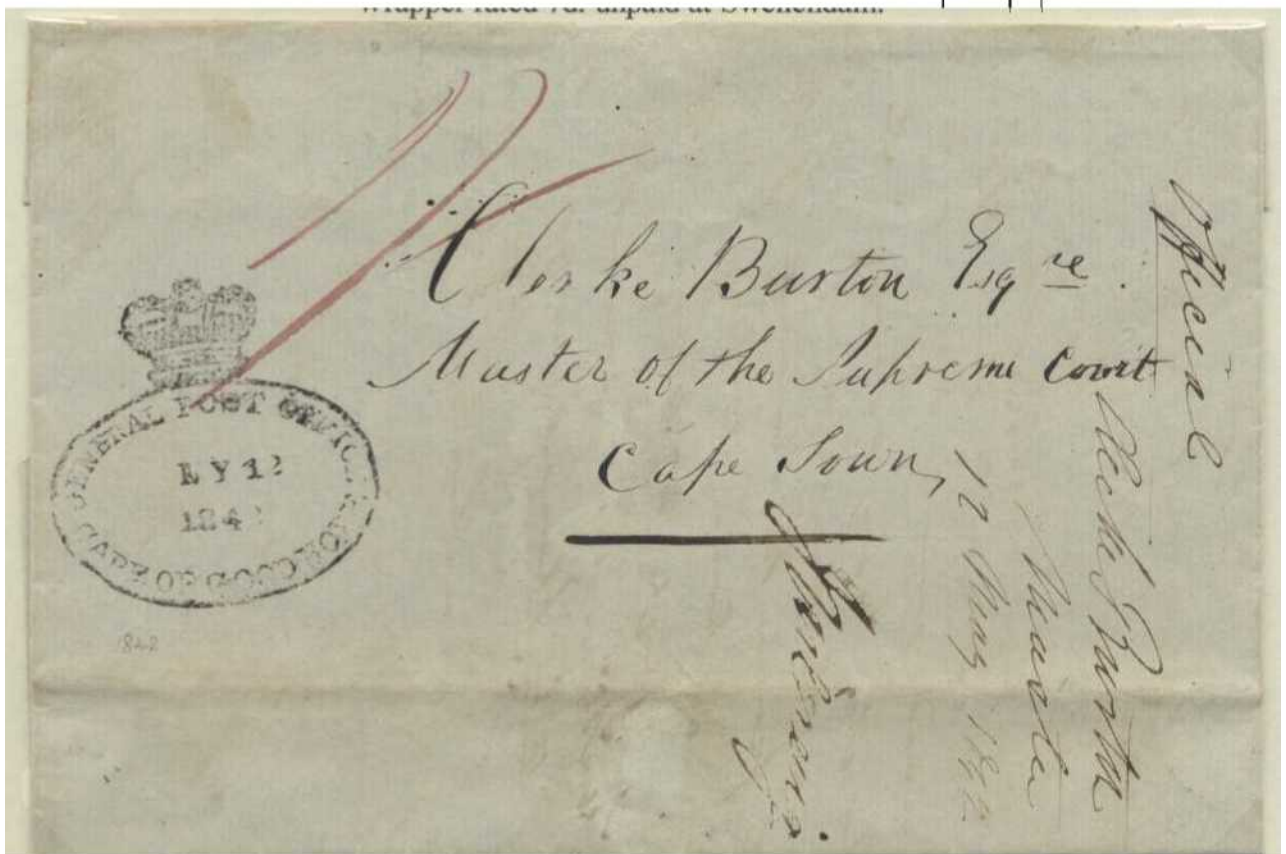
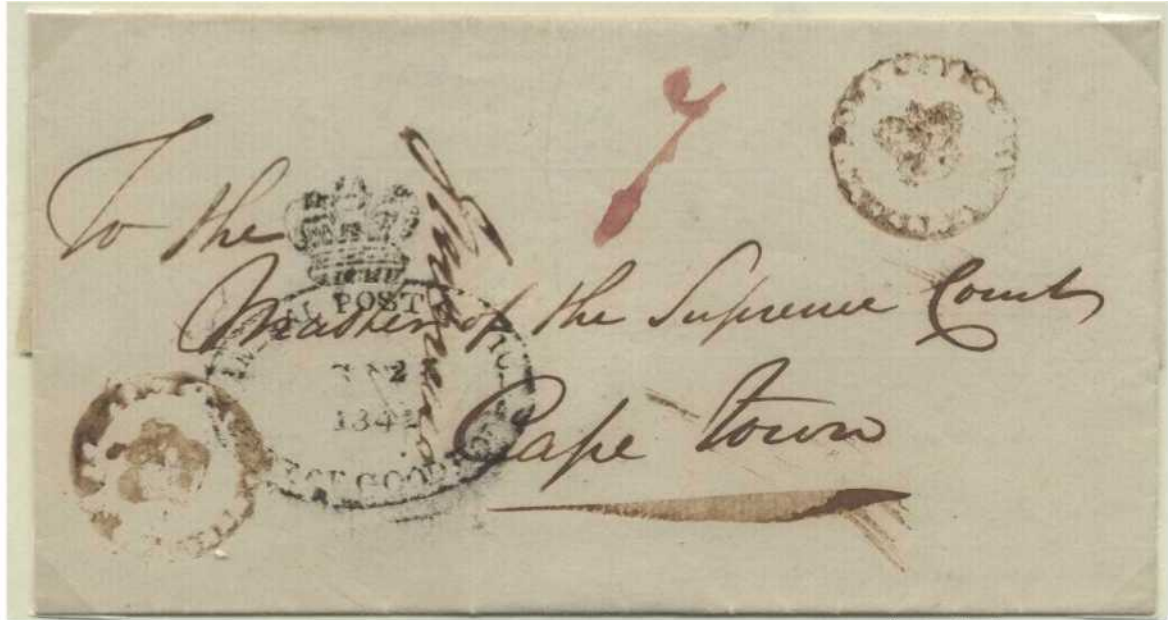
Letter from J.D. Overstreet, Stamp Office, Cape Town advising Clerk of Peace, Graaf-Reinet of stamps delivered. Signature of sender required by Ordinance of 9 October 1826 and entered, an unusual observance of the rule.

Original Signature on Official Mail

1842

The requirement that all official mail be passed to the office of Secretary to the Government for approval added a time consuming chore alleviated by the use of stamped facsimiles.

Rarely was time taken for the official to actually sign the face of the letter. Two wrappers with original signature of J.M. Craig.



Wrapper rated 1 s.unpaid at Grahamstown or Graff-Reinet.

Forwarding Agents

In 1798, the British Post Office admitted the official means of transmitting letters was so "evidently defective as to render the mode of sending them by private vessels and private persons indispensable." Firms or individuals acting as forwarding agents were usually involved with commercial shipping and knew the fastest and cheapest routes. Even though it meant a significant loss of revenue, the Post Office tolerated the practice until steam navigation and the improvement of postal services in the nineteenth century made the agent's services obsolete.



Madras - Cape Town - Lymington - London - Burton on Trent

Arriving from India, letter forwarded at Cape Town by Thomson Watson & Co. by private ship to London. No Cape charges.

Rated at London Ship Letter Office 4d. India letter rate to 3oz. + 8d. inland rate Lymington to London = 1s. Deleted and 6d. inland rate London - Burton on Trent entered.

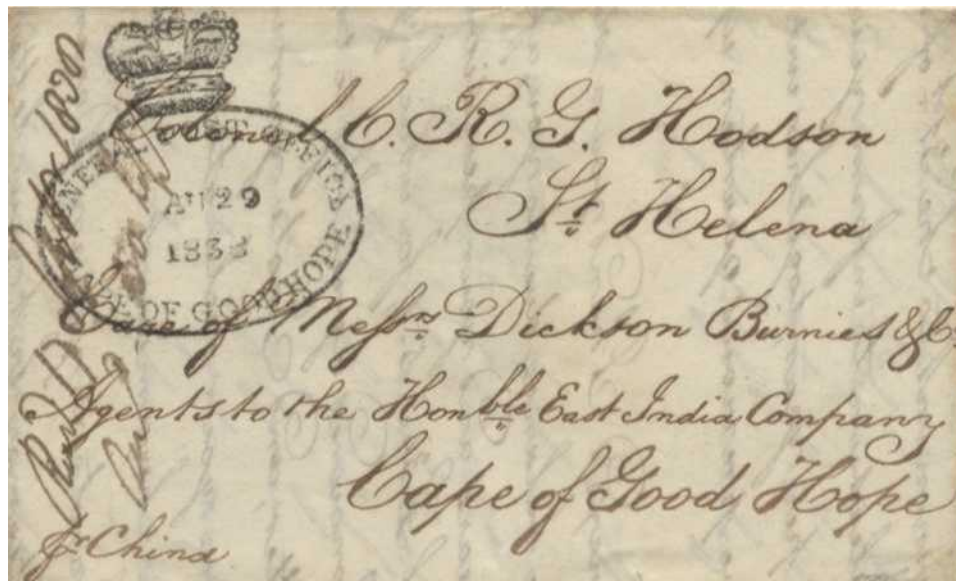


Letter addressed to " George Paton Esq, Army Agent" to be forwarded to " Miss. Andrews at Capt. Caesar Andrews, Cape Reg't. Graaf-Reinet - Interior of Africa." Paton was a General Agent and was appointed Agent to the Army in 1820. Capt. J.C. Andrews commanded a military post on the Fish river. 6d. ship London single sheet ship letter rate of 1814 + 2d. ship master's gratuity + 6d. inland postage = 1s.2d. Rated at London and Paid and Paid Ship Lr.stamps applied.

Forwarding Agents

1838

In forwarding mail, forwarding agent usually made arrangements directly with sender, noted the agent's name on the cover and placed it aboard the first vessel available. Direct address to agent unusual.



Placed aboard H.M.S. China at London. Stamped at Cape Town with Third Dated Letter Stamp AU 29 1838. Forwarded to St. Helena by Dickson, Burnies & Co., agents at Cape Town. Transmission by arrangement with ship's personnel, hence unrated.

Forwarding Agents

1843

St. Helena
3 Nov. 1843
John S. Parker Esq

St. Helena - Cape Town - Calcutta

Forwarded by Isaac Chase/USA/
Cape Town.

Received 11th March
St. Helena 3.11.43 1843



Calcutta
No 14 Native Clothing
John S. Parker Esq
Ent Page 23.
No 33

CALCUTTA
SHIP LETTER
11 44 March 11
leaving



Isaac Chase



Collins certificate.

Cape Town - Canton, via. Hong Kong

4d. ship letter rate of 1846 entered at Cape Town. "per Enmore via Hong Kong" ms. by sender. Forwarding Agent's stamp "H&E Suffert" applied and letter placed aboard the Enmore.

Forwarding Agents



Cape Town - New Zealand -
Cowes - London - Glasgow

Forwarded from Cape Town
to New Zealand by agent.
Not rated. "p paid 3rd. July"
ms New Zealand. 8d. ship
letter rate entered at London
paid to Glasgow.

Forwarding Agents



FORWARDED BY
J. SEARIGHT & CO. CAPE TOWN
CAPE GOOD HOPE

Forwarding Agents



Forwarded from London to Portsmouth by Teape & Edwards. Placed aboard ship Star to Cape Town. Posted and rated [3d. at](#) Cape Town, 1834 rate to Simonstown.

Forwarding Agents



Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa certificate

London - Mauritius via. Cape of Good Hope

1852 letter posted from Fenchurch Street post office. Charged 1 s. packet letter rate oft 840. Addressed to "Messers. Hamilton Rofe. (sic) & Co., Cape of Good Hope. 4d. Cape inland delivery charge of 1845 entered and letter redirected to Hamilton **Ross** & Co., Mauritius per ship "Ramilees".

Cape Mail and the Anglo-French Treaty Stamp

1845

Only recorded example of Anglo-French Treaty stamp on mail dispatched from the Cape of Good Hope.



Cape Town - London - Boulogne - LaReole

Mailed from the French Consulate at the Cape 28 January 1845 exempt from Cape charges. Arrived London 28 April and rated 8d. Incoming ship letter rate per 1/2oz. of 1840. Arrived Boulogne 30 April and charged, under Article 12 of Anglo-French Treaty of 1843, 10 decimes due London Post Office and 30 decimes inland rate to LaReole = 40 decimes.

Cape Mail and the Revised Anglo-French Treaty of 1846



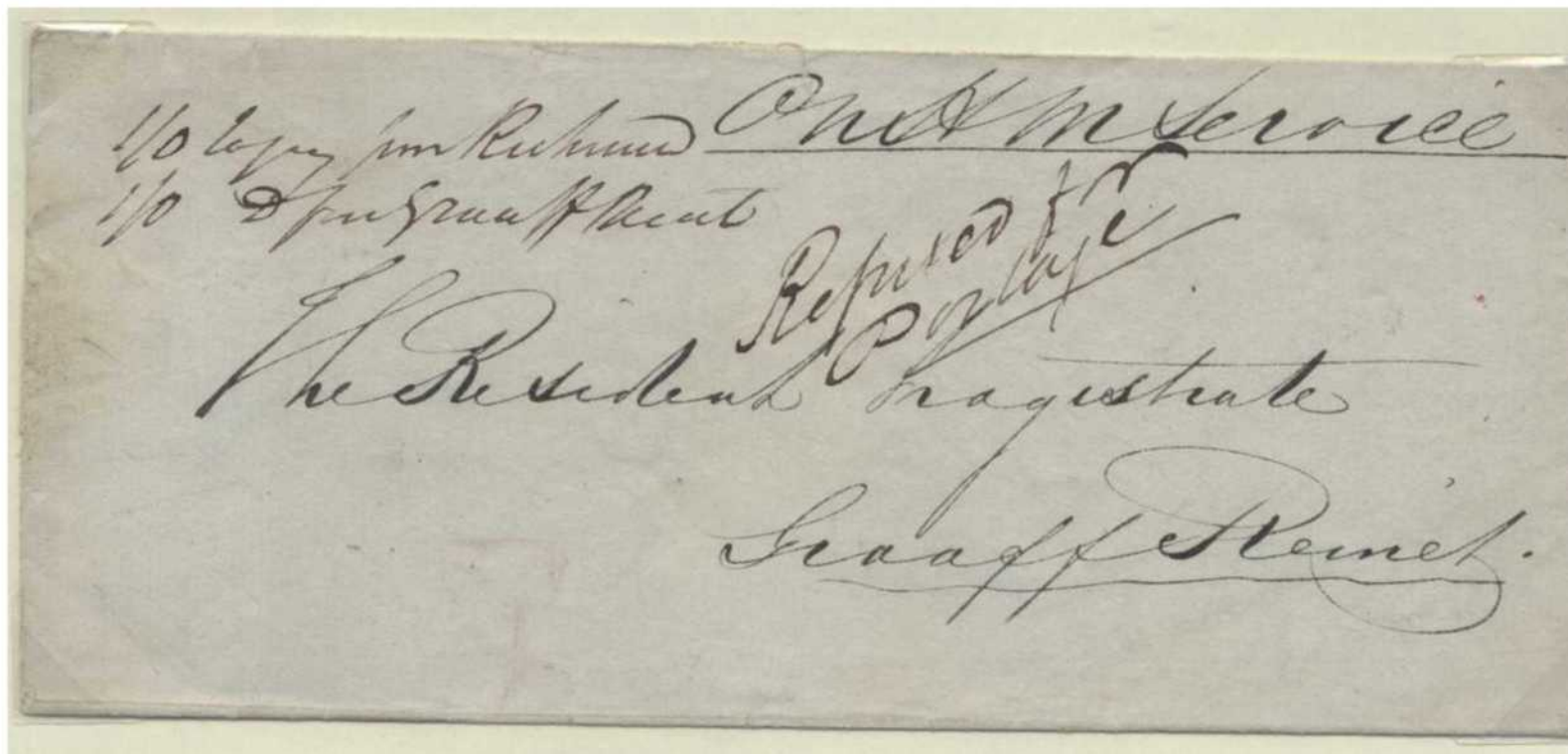
Mayotte - Comoro Islands - Nantes, France via. Cape Town - London - Calais - Paris.

Rated 4d. red ms. unpaid ship letter charge of 1846 and Undated Letter Stamp Type 3 as transit stamp applied at Cape Town. 15 decimes due London post office under Article 13 of 1846 revision of the treaty and the Treaty stamp applied at Paris.

Abolition of Official Free Franking

1846

Ordinance 1 of 7 January 1846 abolished official franking. Letters from any place but Cape Town and Grahamstown were transmitted direct and postage paid by recipient.



Unpaid letter dated 10 March 1846 with enclosures sent in error to Resident Magistrate at Graaf-Reinet instead of Beaufort. "Refused for Postage" at Graaf-Reinet and charged Is. triple sheet rate of 1 March 1846 for transit to Graaf-Reinet and another Is. for return to Richmond where sender had to pay [2s. to](#) get his letter back.

Late Letters

ca. 1850

At Cape Town and Grahamstown, letters were received up to one hour before dispatch and at district post office up to 45 minutes before dispatch. Once a particular mail had closed, late letters would be stamped as such and could be posted for another 15 minutes upon payment of 1s. regardless of weight or destination.



Rated 4d. paid, an additional 1 s. paid on stamping.

PREPAID Stamp

Issued 1846

Sometime in 1846, after nineteen years of use, Cape Town post office replaced the POST PAID stamp with the PREPAID. Manufacturer unknown. In use only seven years, it is the least common of these stamps.



Uniform rate of 4d. per 1/2oz, then 8d. per ounce or part thereof, introduced 1 March 1846.



2s. red ms. 2oz.+ rate of 1846 entered at Cape Town with P. Paid endorsement and PREPAID stamp.

Prepaid

L

The Master
Superior Court
Capt Town

PREPAID

Rare example of handstamp in **red** ink.



Late use of PREPAID stamp in rare combination with octagonal numeral.

Undated Letter Stamp

1847 - 1853

Last of the letter stamps issued the General Post Office at Cape Town. Four types are known and all were used simultaneously. Variations are slight, the most easily identifiable being the length of the ermine ring. Used primarily on letters to and from overseas, it is rarely seen on inland mail.

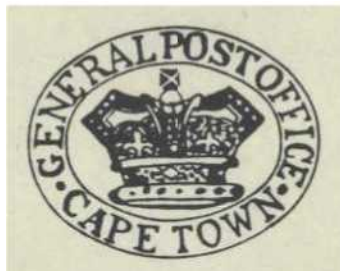
Type 1 - 14mm. ermine ring.



Undated Letter Stamp

Type 2 - 18mm. ermine ring.

Least common of the four types.

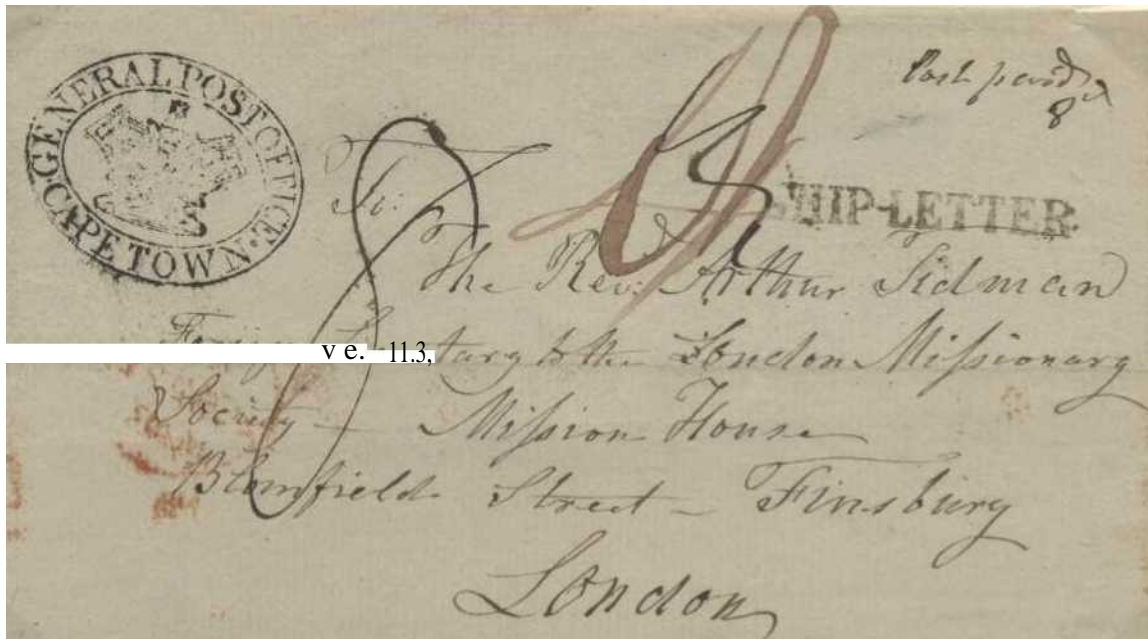


1849

Not rated at Cape Town. 8d. 1/12 oz. incoming letter rate of 1840 entered at London.

Undated Letter Stamp

Type 3 - 15.5mm ermine ring.



1848

Cape Town - London

4d. ship letter rate of 1846 entered at Cape Town. Deleted at London.

8 d 1/2oz incoming letter rate of 1 R40 entered at London.



1852

Port Elizabeth - London via. Cape Town. Redirected to Worcester

4d. inland letter charge + 4d. overseas letter rate of 1846 = 8d. entered at Cape Town.

Charged 2s. - 1 1/2oz. rate of 1840 at London. Included redirection to Worcester.

Undated Letter Stamp

Type 3



Cape Town - London

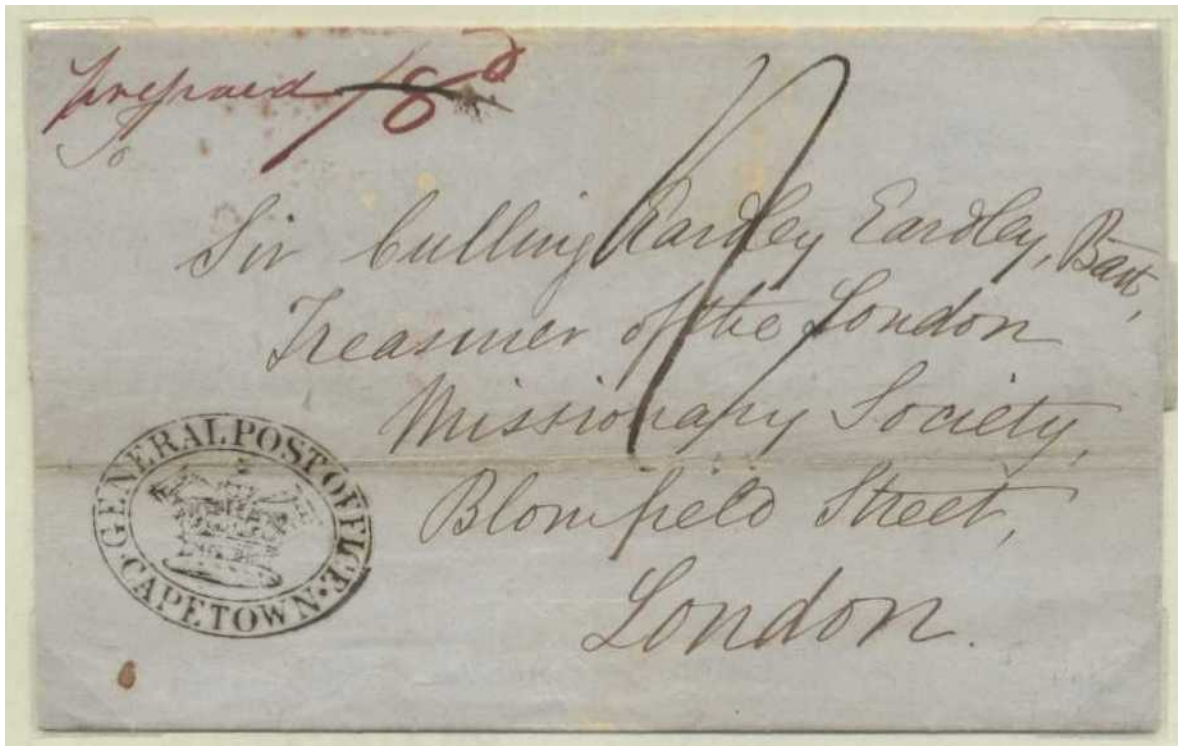
4d. ship letter rate of 1846 entered at Cape Town. Deleted at London and 8d. 1/2oz. ship letter rate of 1840 entered.



4d. ship letter rate of 1846 unpaid at Cape Town. 8d. incoming ship letter rate of 1840 + 4d. unpaid = 1s. entered at London.

Type 3

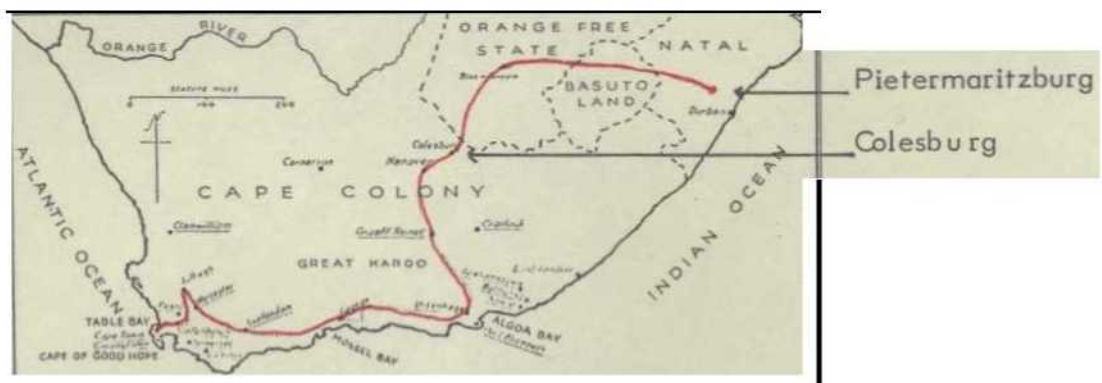
Pietermaritzburg - Colesberg overland route opened 19 November 1849 supplementing the more commonly used sea route via. D'Urban to Cape Town.



- Cape Town.

11 d. overland rate + 4d. Cape Town post office delivery charge + 4d. ship letter rate of 1846 + 1 d. ship's master's gratuity = 1s. 8d. entered at Cape Town red ms.

1s. entered at London in error. Correct rate would be 8d. "in all" ship letter rate of 1840.



Undated Letter Stamp

1852

Type 3

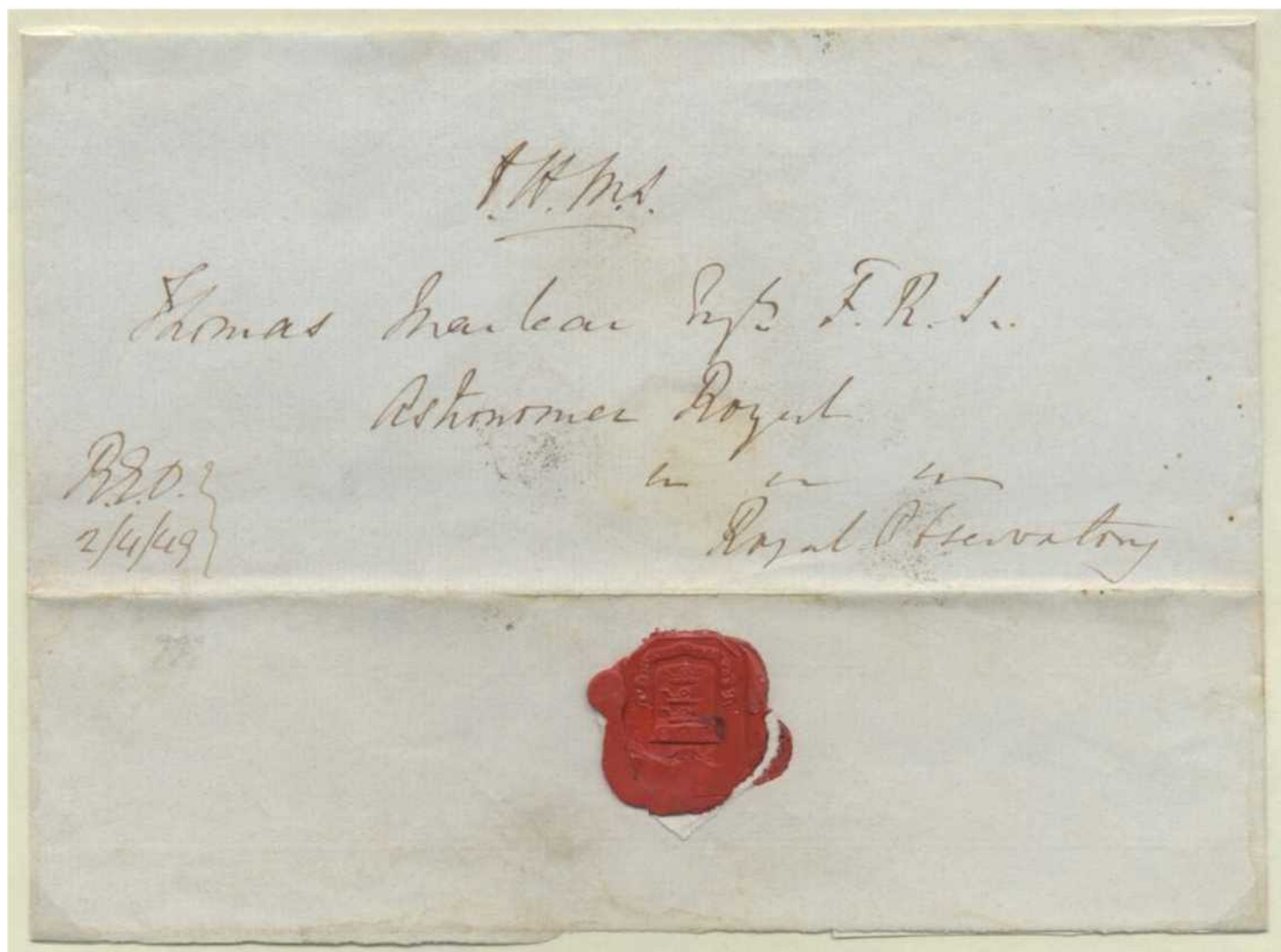
Propaganda envelope prepared by Charles Gilpin in London in an unsuccessful attempt to supplant the 8d, "in all" London ship letter rate of 1840 with a uniform 1 d. rate.



1849 - 1850



Rated 4d. overseas letter rate of 1846 at Cape Town.
8d. uniform ship letter rate of 1840 entered at London.

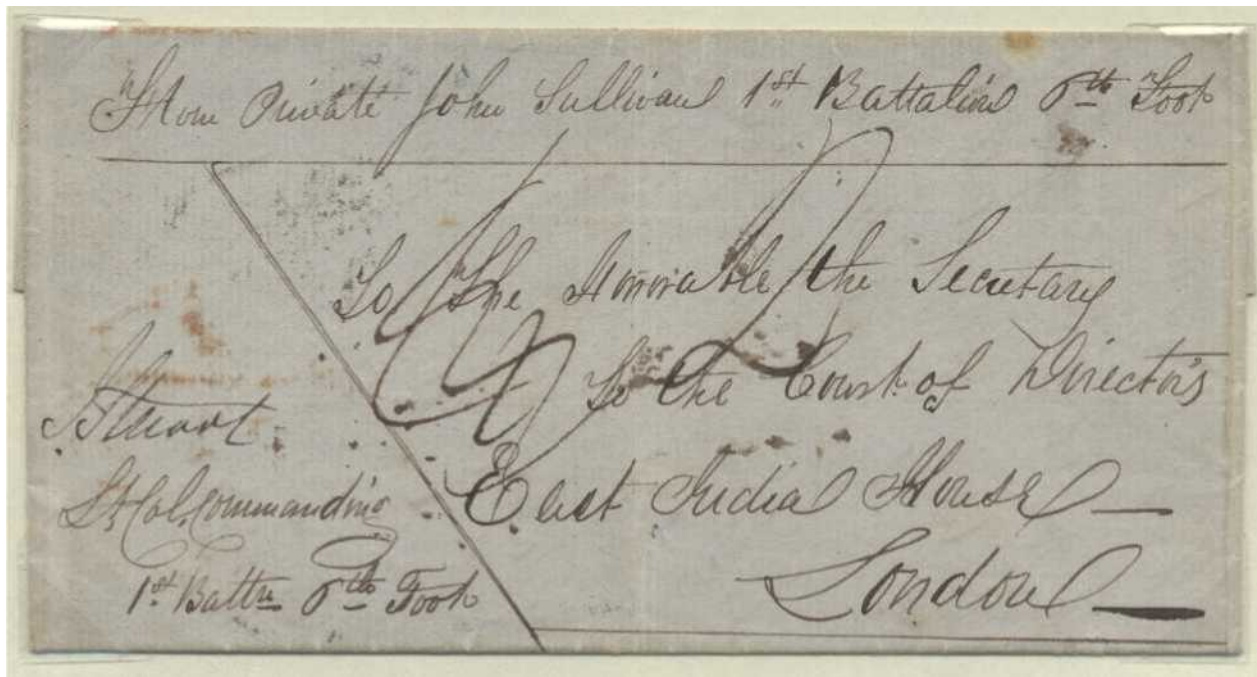


Ms. 'R.E.O. (Royal Engineers Office) 2/4/49 by sender. Sealed with seal of Royal Engineers. Local letter probably hand delivered as it shows no evidence of passing through the office of Secretary to Government or the General Post Office.



Cape Naval Station commanded by Rear Admiral Reynolds who was entitled to the free franking privilege. Letter signed by him and sealed with his personal seal. This too appears to have been hand delivered, a practice to be expected in a military organization.

Act of Parliament of 1837 revised rates for soldier's & seamen's letters and included special provisions for those serving in the East Indies, Ceylon, Mauritius, St. Helena and the Cape of Good Hope. Letters sent by them were charged **to the recipient** under the following formula. Id. charged if the letter was posted in the UK. Id. + 2d. sea postage if posted from any of the above areas and 4d. if carried by private ship.



Letter from Pvt. Sullivan to Secretary to the Court of Directors, East India House originally charged 4d. Deleted and 2d. entered. Possibly due to official nature of correspondence, charged only 2d. sea postage.

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps

1849 - 1853

Over two decades of use made the Post Office Letter Stamps of little or no use and their replacement urgent. 59 stamps with an octagonal frame [23mm. by 23mm.](#) and one, [26mm. by 26mm.](#), and consecutive numbers 1 - 60 were obtained. The 26mm. stamp was issued to Somerset East. Number 1 was reserved for Cape Town but never placed in use. Of the remaining 59, 9 are not known to have been issued and 6 have no known examples. Of the 44 post offices for which examples are known, 39 are shown here.



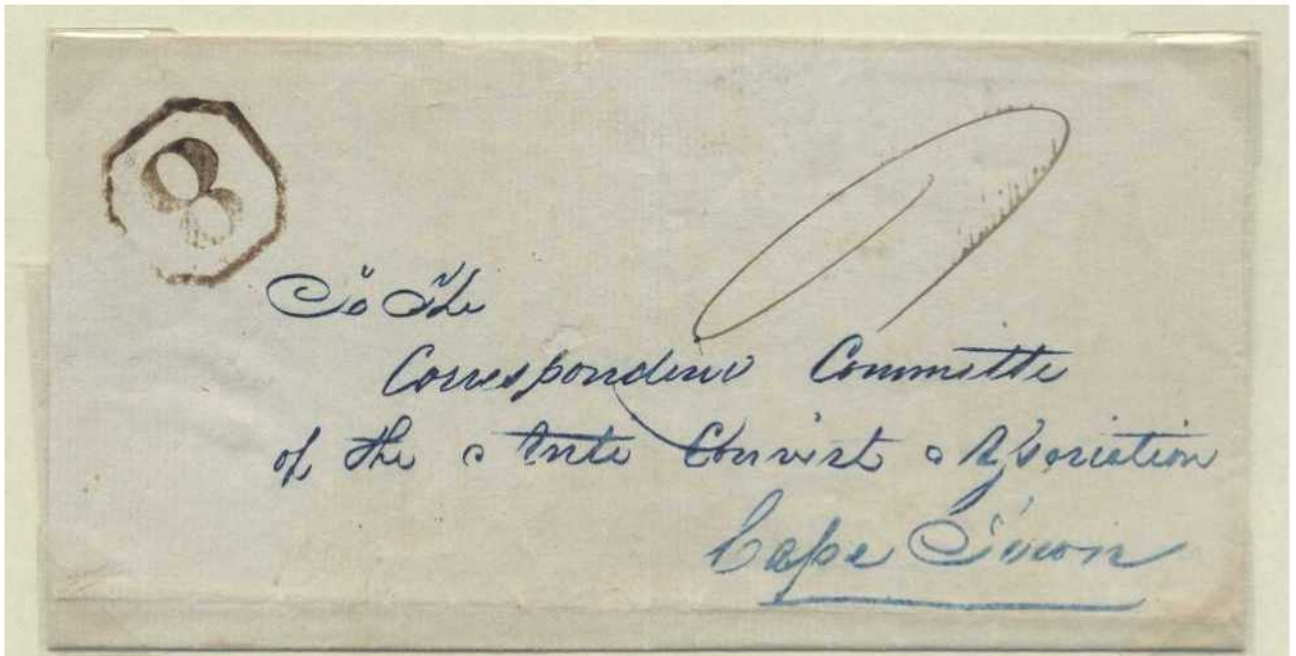
2 Rondebosch

Rondebosch - Nuneaton, England via. Cape Town and London.

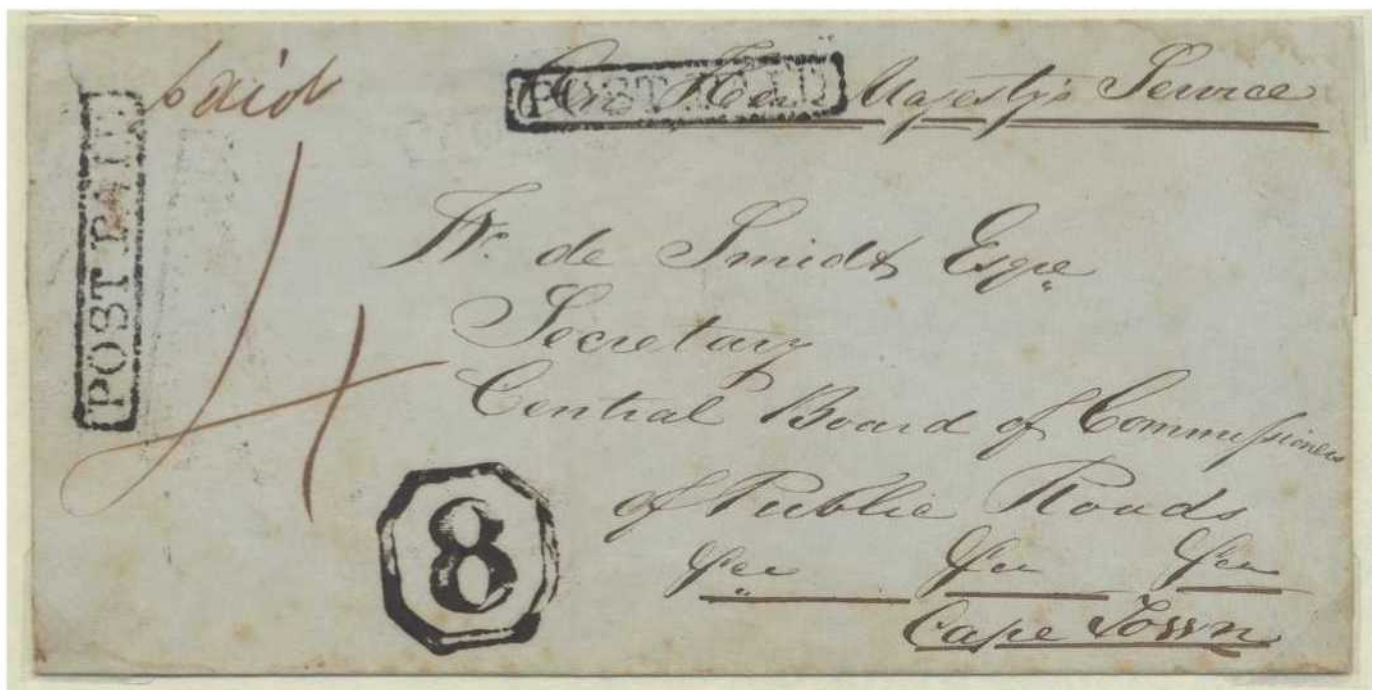


7 Kalk Bay

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



8 Simonstown



Posted as an official letter, status denied at Cape Town and rated "paid 4d." ms. Post Paid stamp applied over ms "On Her Majesty's Service" confirms charge. Late use of Post Paid stamp.

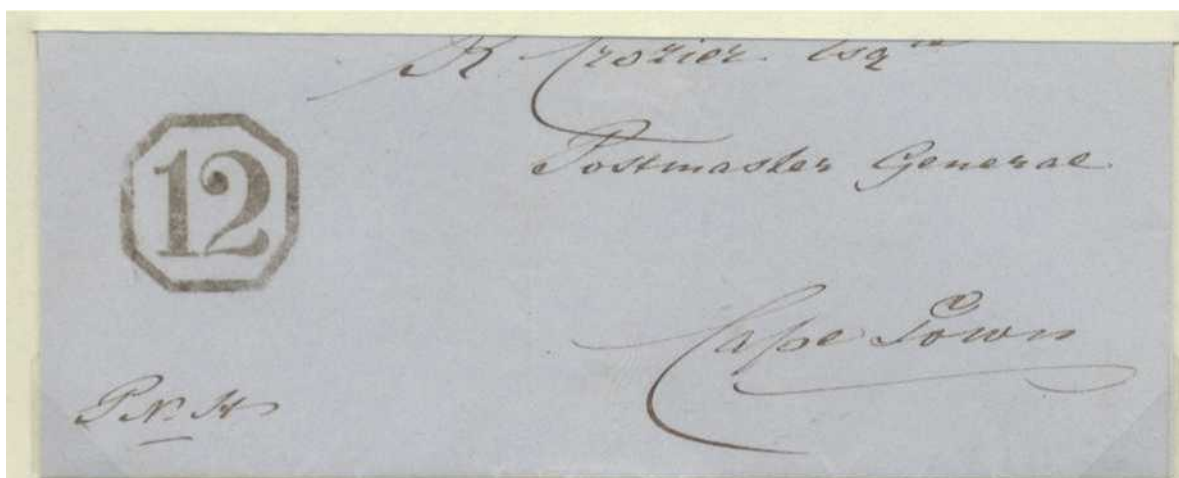
Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



10 Stellenbosch



11 French Hoek

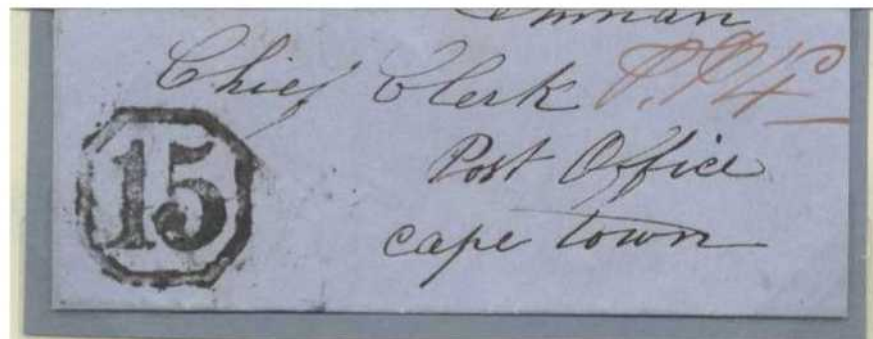


12 Paarl

The Octagonal Numeral Stamps



13 Wellington



15 Wagenmakersvallei

In use only during the construction of Bainskloof pass, this is rarely seen.



16 Tulbagh

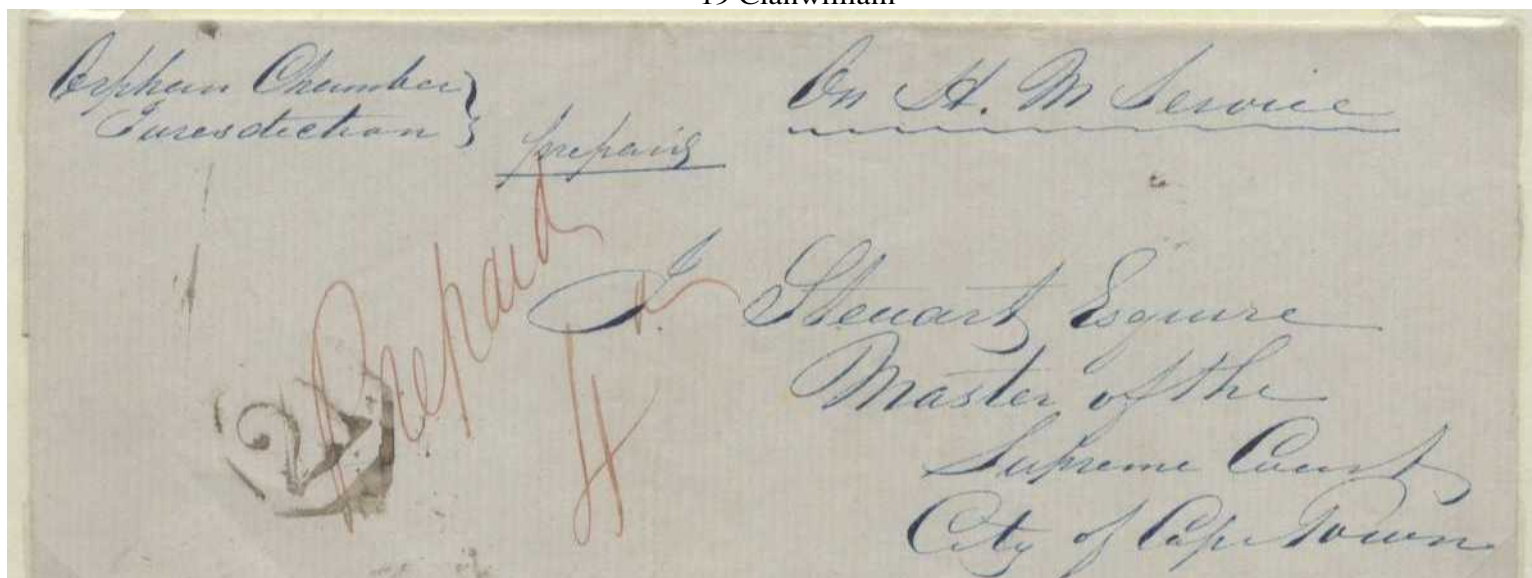
The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



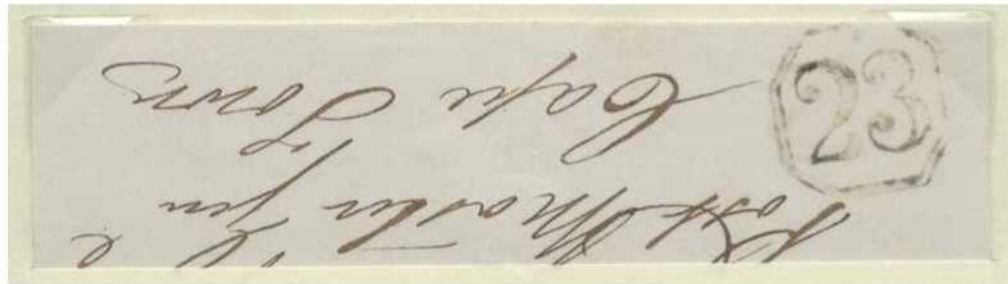
17 Piquetberg



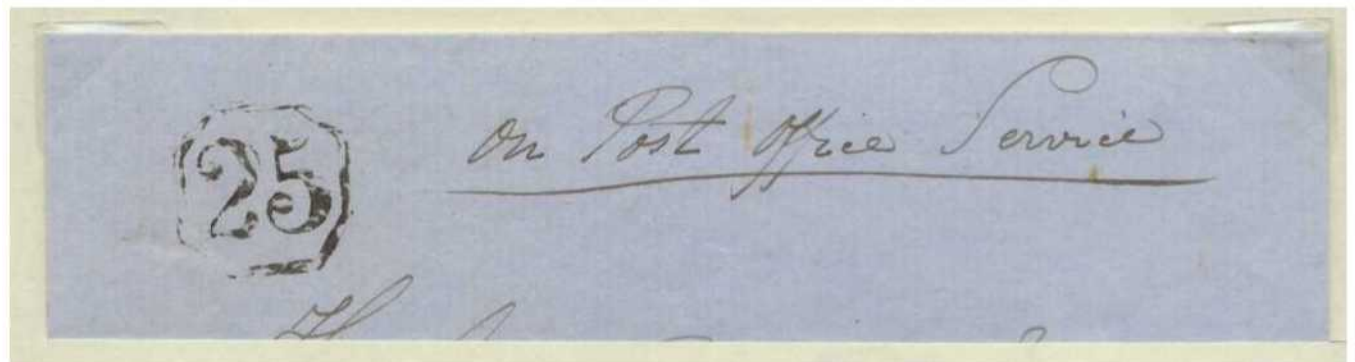
19 Clanwilliam



The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



23 Somerset (Hottentots Holland)



25 Houw Hoek



32 Riversdale

The Octagonal Numeral Stamps

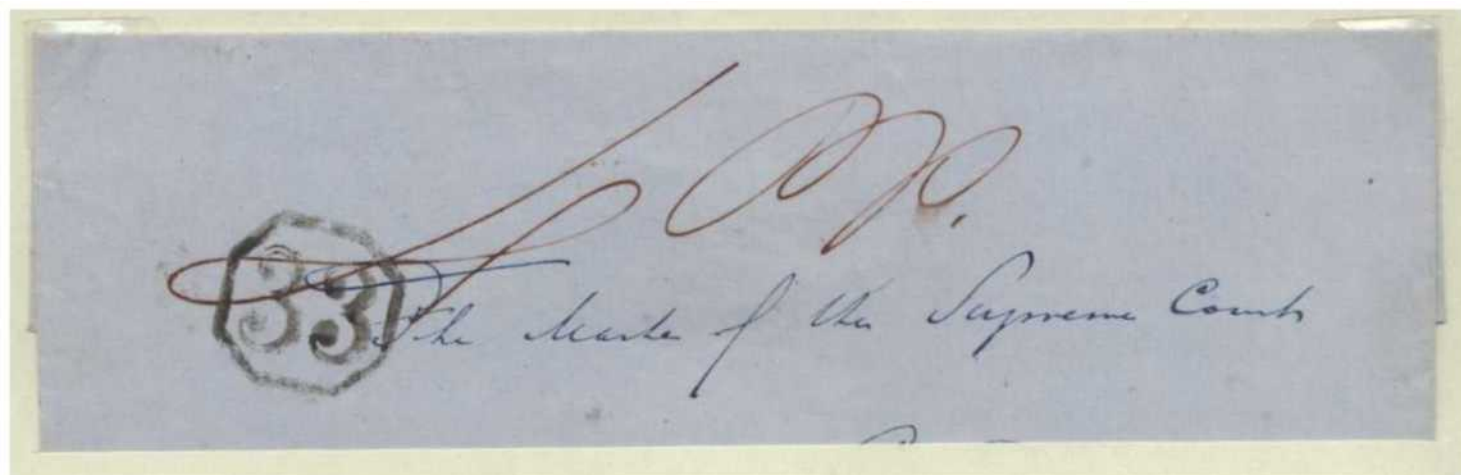
1849 - 1853



30 Swellendam

Stamp impressed in wax.

Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



33 Mossel Bay

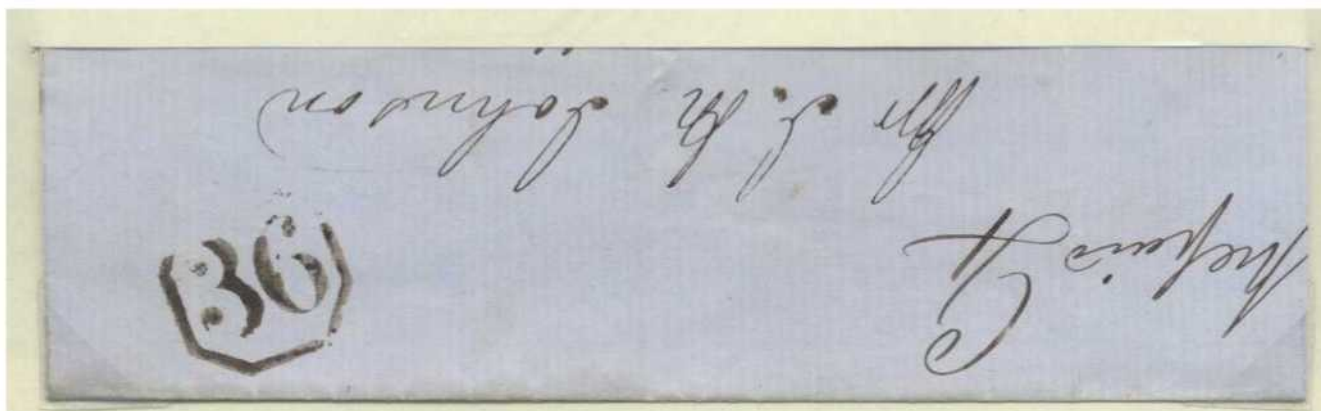


34 George

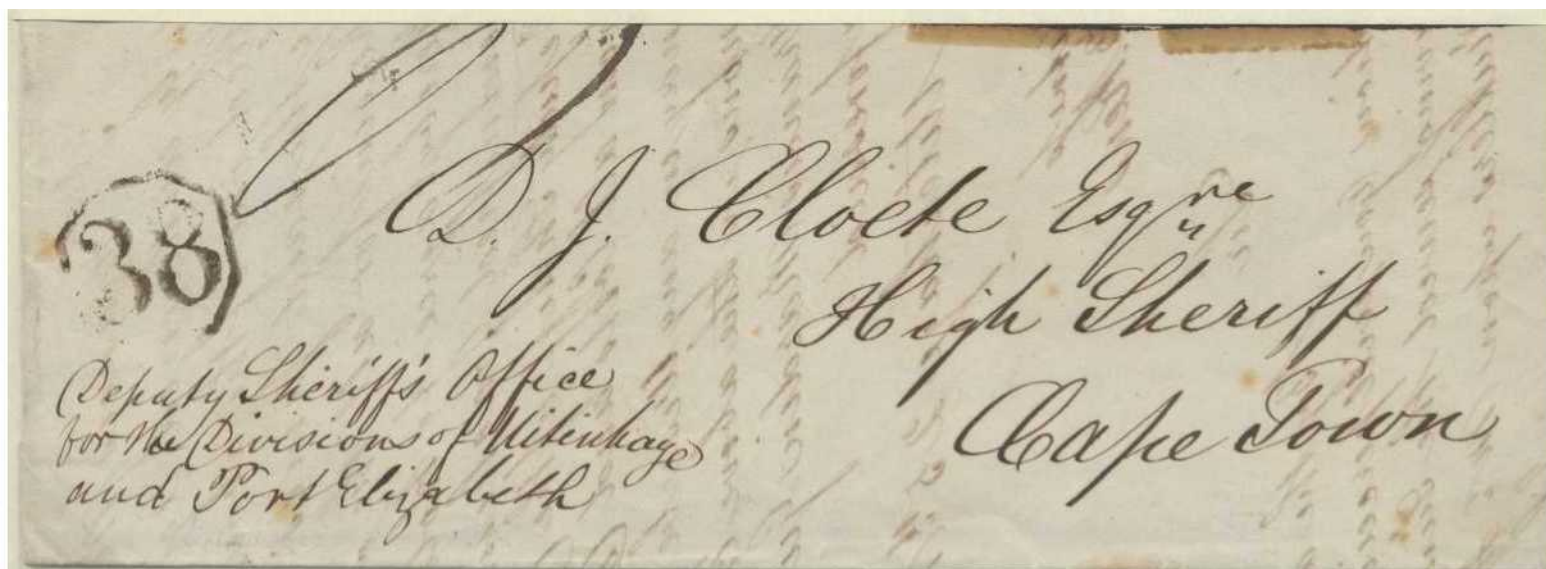


35 Lange Kloof

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



36 Plettenberg Bay



38 Uitenhage

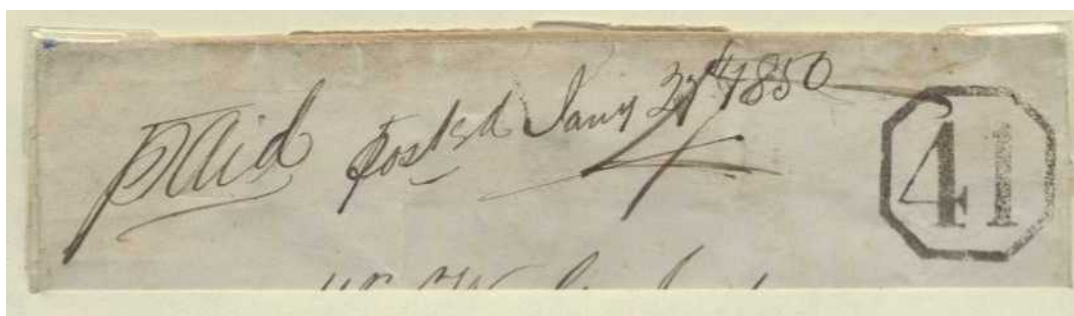


39 Oliphant's Hoek (Sidbury)

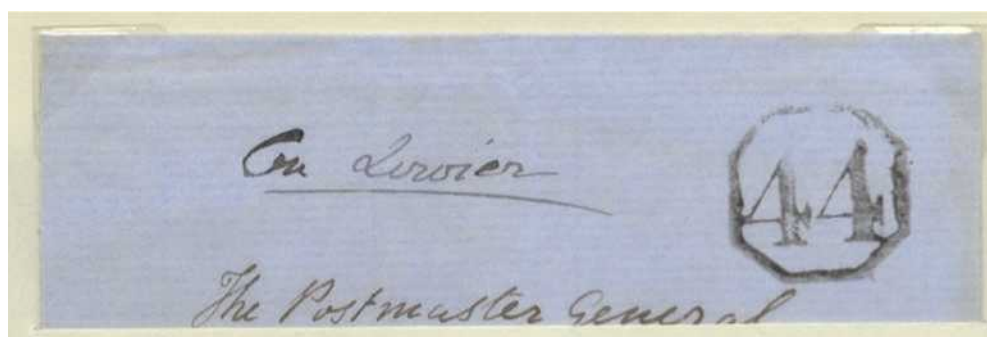
The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



40 Burgersdorp



41 Commando Kraal

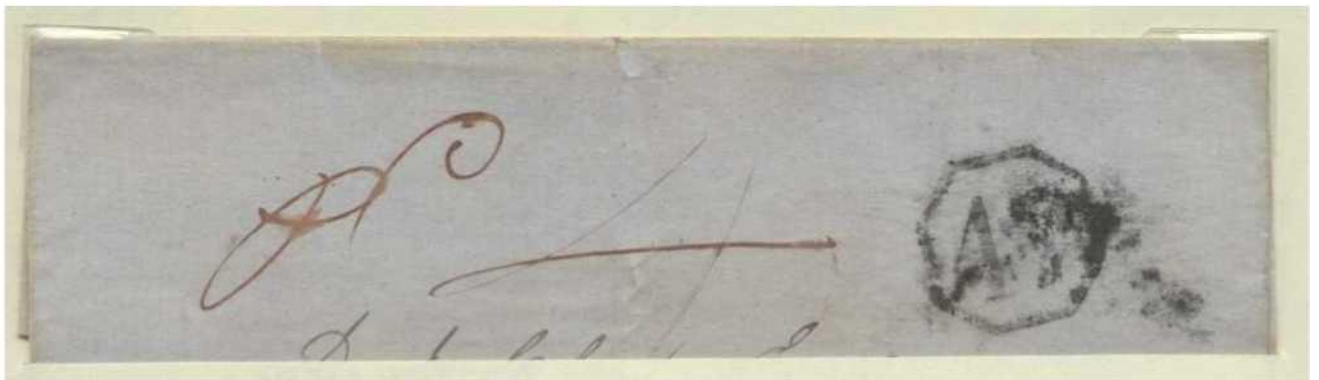


44 Knysna

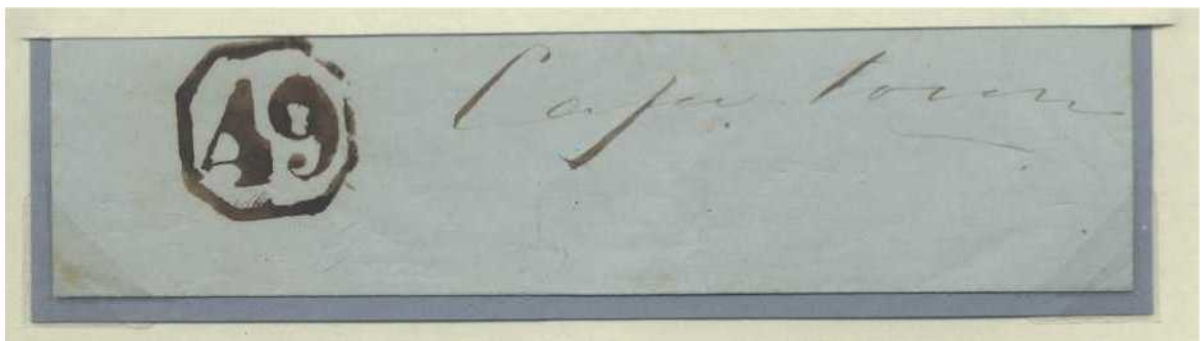
The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



46 Grahamstown



47 Fort Beaufort



49 Fort Hare

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



50 Mamre



51 Bathurst

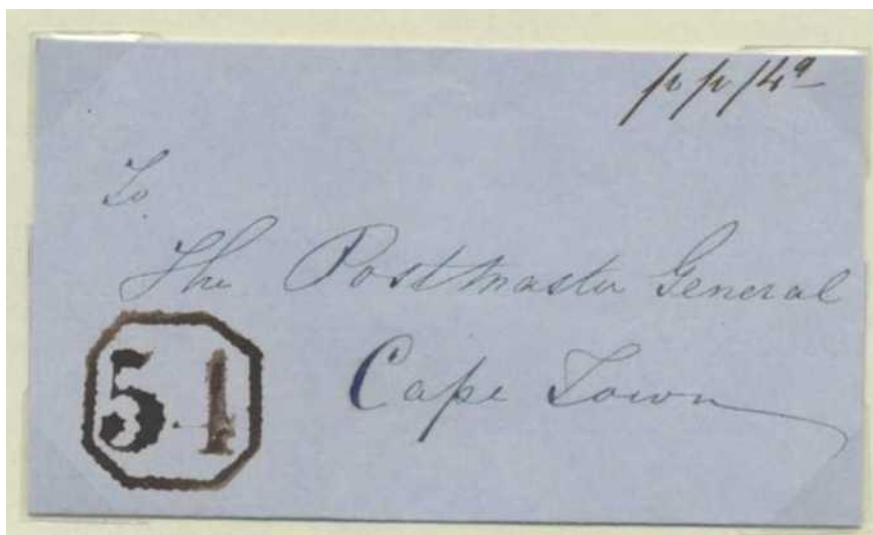


52 Beaufort

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps

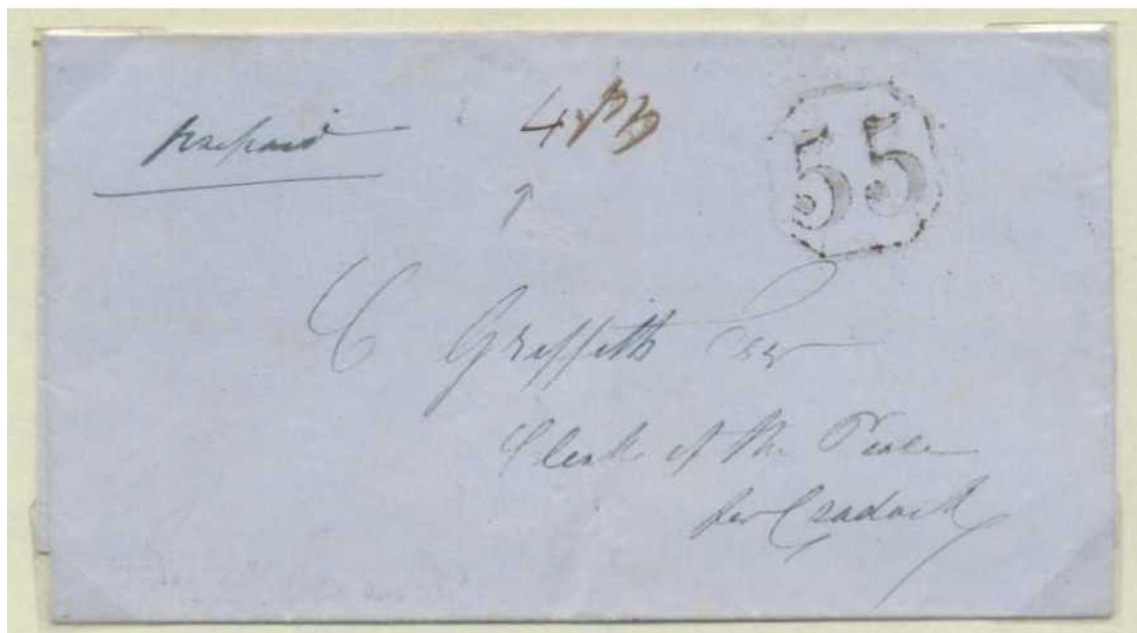


53 Prince Albert

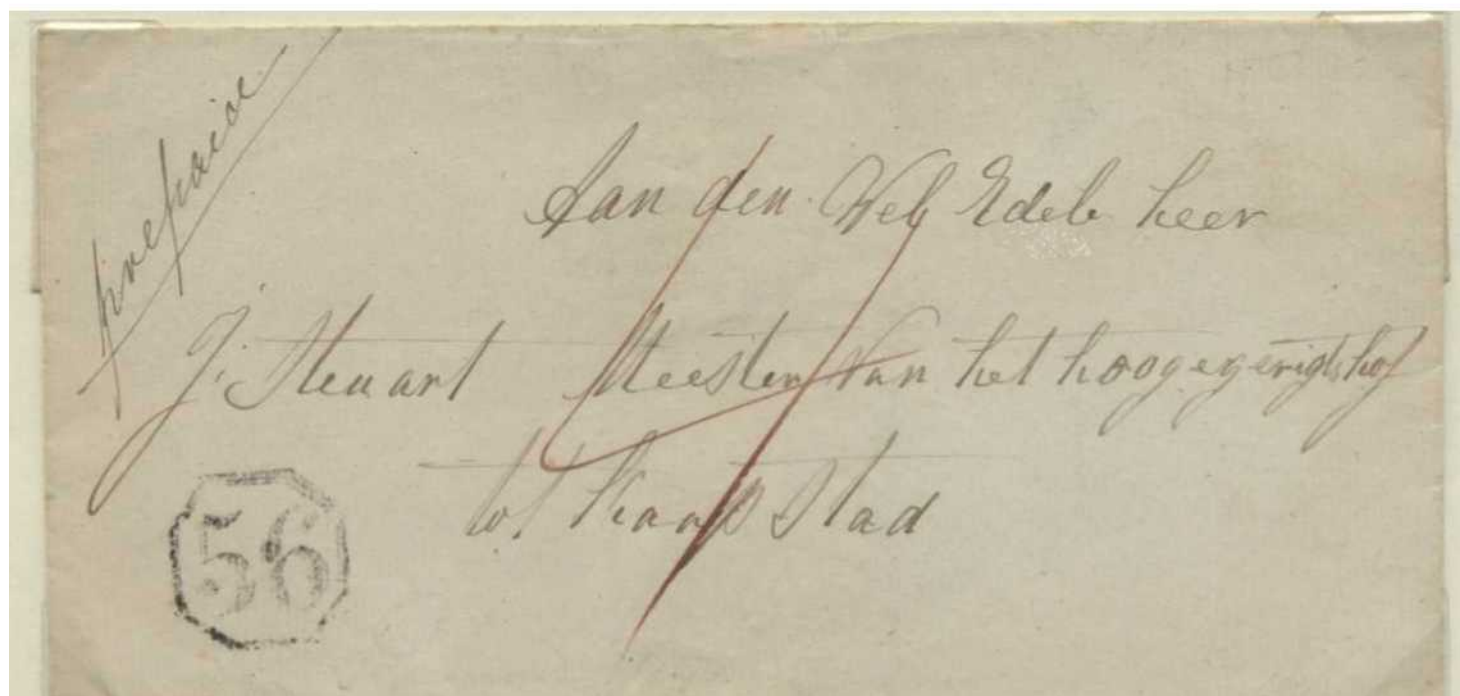


54 Victoria (West)

Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



55 Graaf- Reinet



56 Richmond

The Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps



57 Colesberg



57 Colesberg

Rare use of octagonal numeral as arrival stamp.



Handstamp in red rare
B.P.A. Certificate

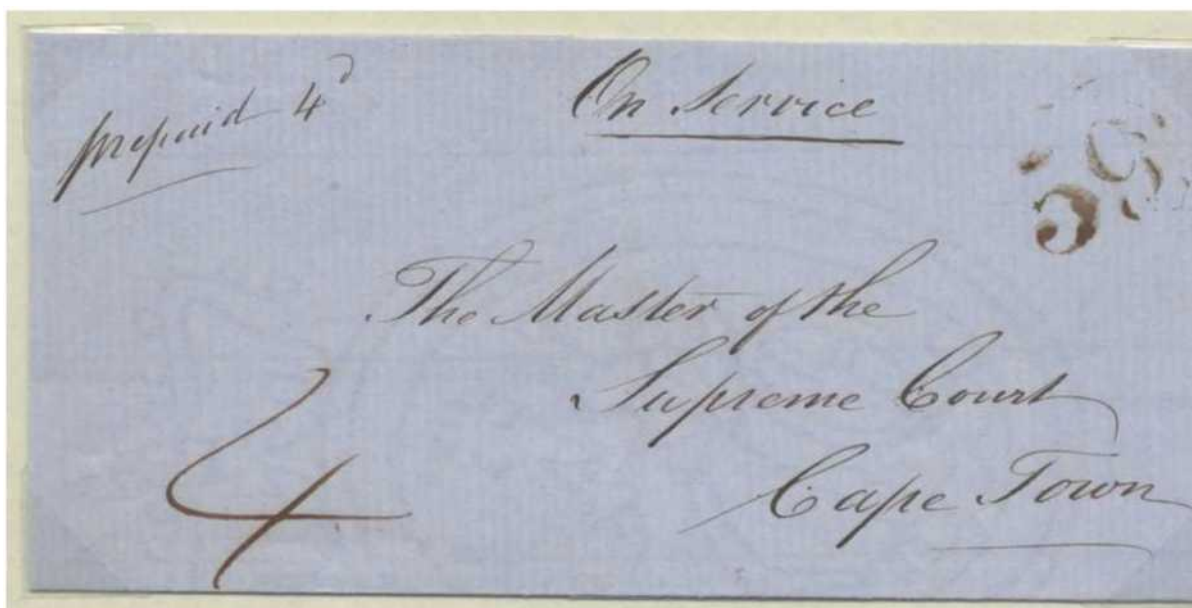
57 Colesberg

The Octagonal Numeral Stamps

1849-1853



58 Hankey



59 Somerset East

The Octagonal Numeral Stamps

Use on overseas mail.



Victoria (West) - Cape Town - London - New Brunswick

1846 rates at Cape Town - 4d. ship letter rate + 4d. inland rate = 8d. Ms. post paid. Undated letter stamp Type 4 transit stamp.

Is. black ms, 1/2oz. British packet rate of 1840 via. Halifax



Cradock - Cape Town - London - Finsburg

4d. ship letter rate + 4d. inland letter rate = 8d. red ms. at Cape Town. Undated letter stamp Type 1 transit stamp.

London 8d. "in all" ship letter rate of 1846 included inland postage.

The Octagonal Numeral Stamps

Postmaster's private handstamp.

From 1849 to 1853, the postmaster at Swellendam occasionally used his own small "PREPAID" stamp with the octagonal numeral 30.



Port Elizabeth Dated Letter Stamps

1852

Port Elizabeth was never issued an octagonal numeral handstamp but in late December 1852, PAID and TO PAY letter stamps were placed in use making this the only post office other than Cape Town to employ dated letter stamps. In use until 1 September 1853, less than a year, they are uncommon. Some authorities question the existence of genuine examples of the TO PAY stamp.



Collins certificate.

Handstamp in red is very rare.

Overseas Mail



Port Elizabeth - Cape Town - London

Posted at Port Elizabeth 18 March 1853. Undated letter stamp Type 3 applied at Cape Town and rated 1s. single sheet packet letter rate of 1853. Rated 8d. uniform "in all" ship letter rate of 1840 at London.

Appendix 1

Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps And Other Items

Octagonal Numeral Letter Stamps

Impressions of "51" Bathurst & "53" Prince Albert in blue ink.

In 1911 the Consul General for the Netherlands in Cape Town, H. Van Oordt von Lauwenrecht, requested impressions be made from dies held in the archives of the Cape Town Post Office. Mr. Twycross, the postmaster, obliged but was woefully ignorant of the post offices assigned the dies.



Issued in 1849, "51" to Bathurst and "53" to Prince Albert.

After the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1853, "51" was given to Port Alfred, about 10 kilometers southeast of Bathurst, to cancel them. The only post office officially authorized to do so.

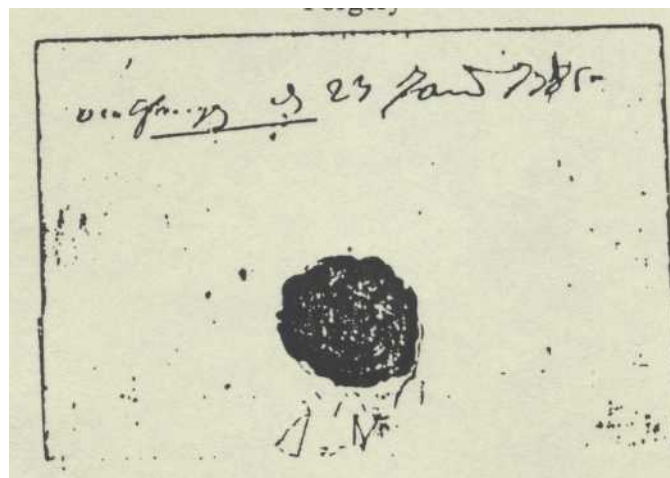
Revenue Handstamps of the Dutch East India Company



Rarely seen and not mentioned in the philatelic literature, little is known of these.

"VOC" Handstamp Forgery

Cover is genuine but VOC handstamp Type 3 is forged.



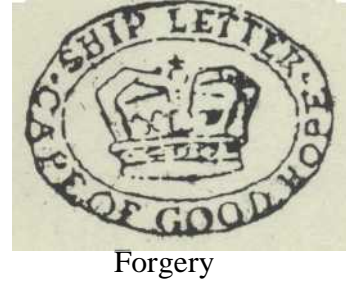
Reverse

Use of VOC handstamp to the Cape unknown prior to 1792. Arrival marking 23 Jan 1785 on reverse..

Ship Letter Stamp

Forgery

A crude imitation of genuine stamp. Irregular letters and border, badly drawn crown and intense black ink characteristic of forgery.



Genuine cover rated 2sk. double sheet rate at Cape Town.

Post Paid Stamp Forgeries



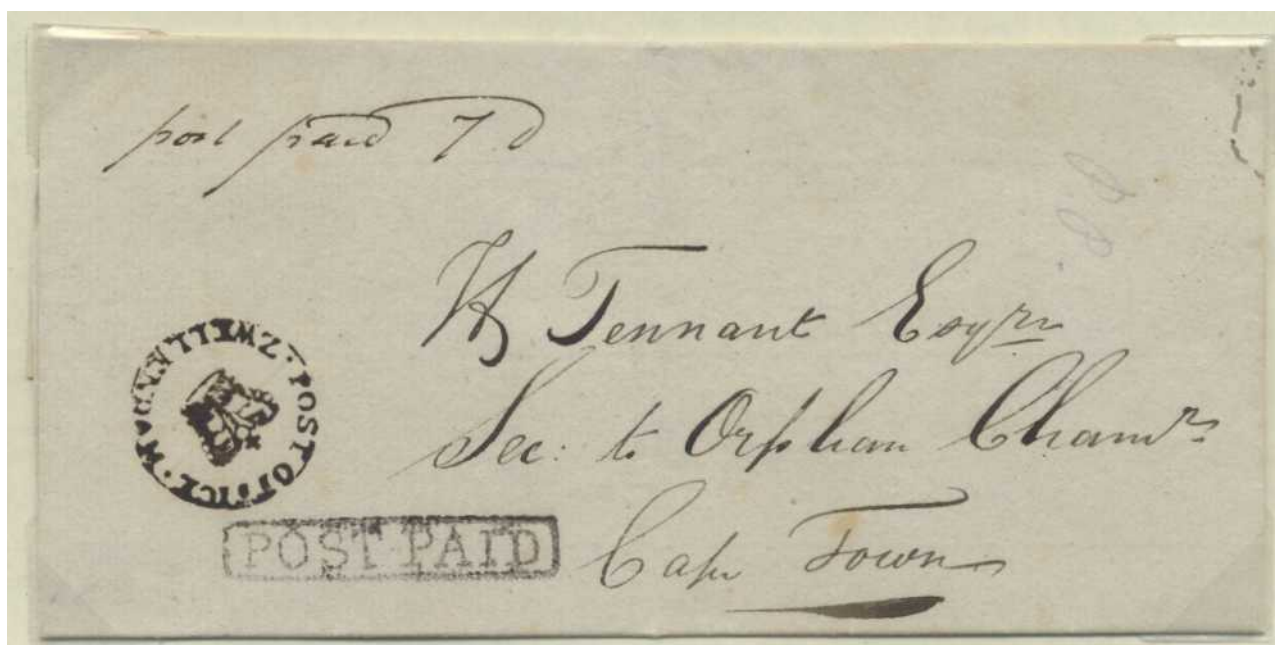
Jurgen's illustration. O&S are upright.



Goldblatt's illustration. O&S tilted to left.



Forged handstamp on genuine wrapper. Stamp identical to Jurgen's illustration.

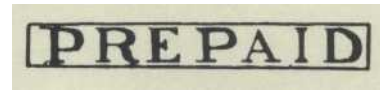


Second type of forged handstamp on genuine wrapper. O upright. S&T tilted markedly to left.

Prepaid Stamp Forgery



Jurgens' illustration.



Goldblatt's illustration.

Many of the forged handstamps are alleged to have been created by Adrian Jurgens using the dies created to illustrate his book "The Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope from 1792 to 1853 and the Postmarks from 1853 to 1910." published in 1938 before modern photocopying techniques could be used to accurately reproduce the stamps resulting in discrepancies which are usually readily discernible. The illustrations from Goldblatt's book "Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope", published in 1983 are far more accurate reproductions of the originals



The forged stamp on a genuine cover. The major difference in the forgery is the straight right leg of the "R" which is gently curved in the genuine. "A" upright in the forgery but tilted to the left in the genuine..

Undated Letter Stamp Forgery



Forged handstamp identical to Jurgen's illustration on genuine undated wrapper. Chief characteristic of forgery is the tilted crossbar of the orb.

6d. rate shown is incompatible as it was replaced by the 4d. uniform rate one year before the introduction of the Undated Letter Stamp.



Jurgen's Illustration

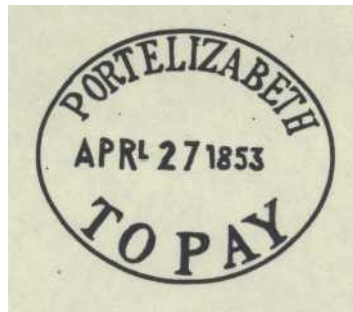


Goldblatt's Illustration

Port Elizabeth Dated "To Pay" Stamp Forgery

Indistinct serifs, lack of the date and poorly formed letters of "Port Elizabeth" mark this a forgery.

Some experts deny the existence of genuine examples of this handstamp.



Goldblatt's illustration.

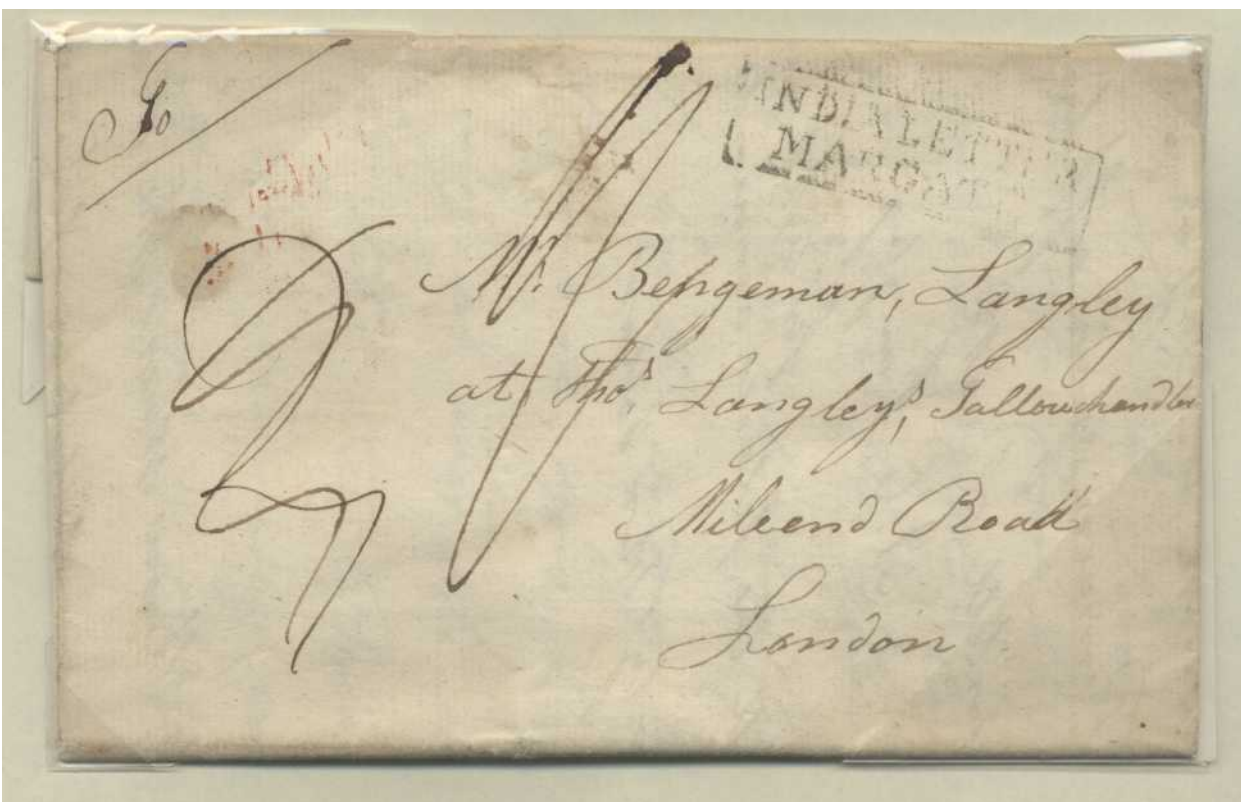
Appendix 2

Langley Correspondence

Langley Correspondence

Letter to Benjamin Langley from his wife, Anna Catharina
26 April 1823

Benjamin Langley, the first of three brothers to emigrate from England to the Cape, arrived at Cape Town 27 August 1808 and first worked as a clerk in the Naval Office. Three and a half years later, he married Anna Catherina Koster, a widow four years older than he. He continued to work at the Naval Office until 1814. He then dealt extensively in real estate before returning to England leaving the Cape on 14 June 1821 with his wife remaining behind. After two years, she writes her husband detailing her financial woes due, in large part, to swindles engineered by Benjamin's two brothers, Samuel and Joseph. In response to his wife's pleas, Benjamin returned to the Cape on 31 May 1823.



No Cape markings - Probably carried "by favor" to London.

London markings:

2sh. ms. marking deleted.

4d. Ship Letter Rate from the Cape.

8d. Inland Letter Rate, Margate - London.

1sh. black ms.

Langley Correspondence.

Letter from Joseph and Samuel Langley to their brother Thomas.
30 June 1823

Brothers Joseph and Samuel Langley arrived at Cape Town on 7 December 1814. An unnamed uncle apparently left a sizeable estate to four Langley brothers, Benjamin, Joseph, Samuel and Thomas naming the latter Executor. Here Samuel tells Thomas of Benjamin's arrival from England and says he is on speaking terms with Benjamin but will have nothing further to do with him after serving him for eight years and being little better off than when he left England. Joseph details shipments of wine and ale to Thomas and complains of Benjamin's laxity in handling payments due him from prior shipments. Both brothers apparently have little use for Benjamin.



No Cape markings.
London marking.
4d. Ship Letter rate from the Cape.
8d. Inland letter rate, Deal - London.
1sh. black ms.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Samuel to Thomas
24 November 1824

Samuel complains to Thomas that Benjamin cheated him out of £100 and then transferred all of his property and slaves to Henry Batt before declaring insolvency. Batt was a wine merchant doing business in the same area of Cape Town as Benjamin. The last paragraph authorizes Thomas to receive the yearly income from Joseph's and Samuel's portion of the estate of the uncle, Robert Langley, Esq. This seems to figure prominently in the bad relationship with Benjamin.



Cape markings:

3d. red ms. incorrect. Ship letter rate in 1824 - 4d.

Simonstown - Post Office Letter Stamp - Dispatch stamp.

First Dated Letter Stamp - NO22, 1824 - Cape Town - Transit stamp.

London markings:

4d. India Ship Letter Rate.

8d. - Inland Letter Rate. - Portsmouth - London.

Boxed India Letter Portsmouth in red.- Arrival stamp.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Samuel to Thomas.

10 January 1827

Samuel tells Thomas, who has been cheated £ 10 by a Thos. Stratford, that said Stratford must answer to him if he ever returns to England. A post script says getting any settlement from Benjamin is out of the question. Certainly, Benjamin and his brothers are still at odds.



Cape markings:

ms. Single over SL - "Single sheet - Samuel Langley
First Dated Letter Stamp - JA24 - 1827 - Dispatch stamp.
4d. red ms. - Ship Letter Rate, single sheet of 1826.

London markings:

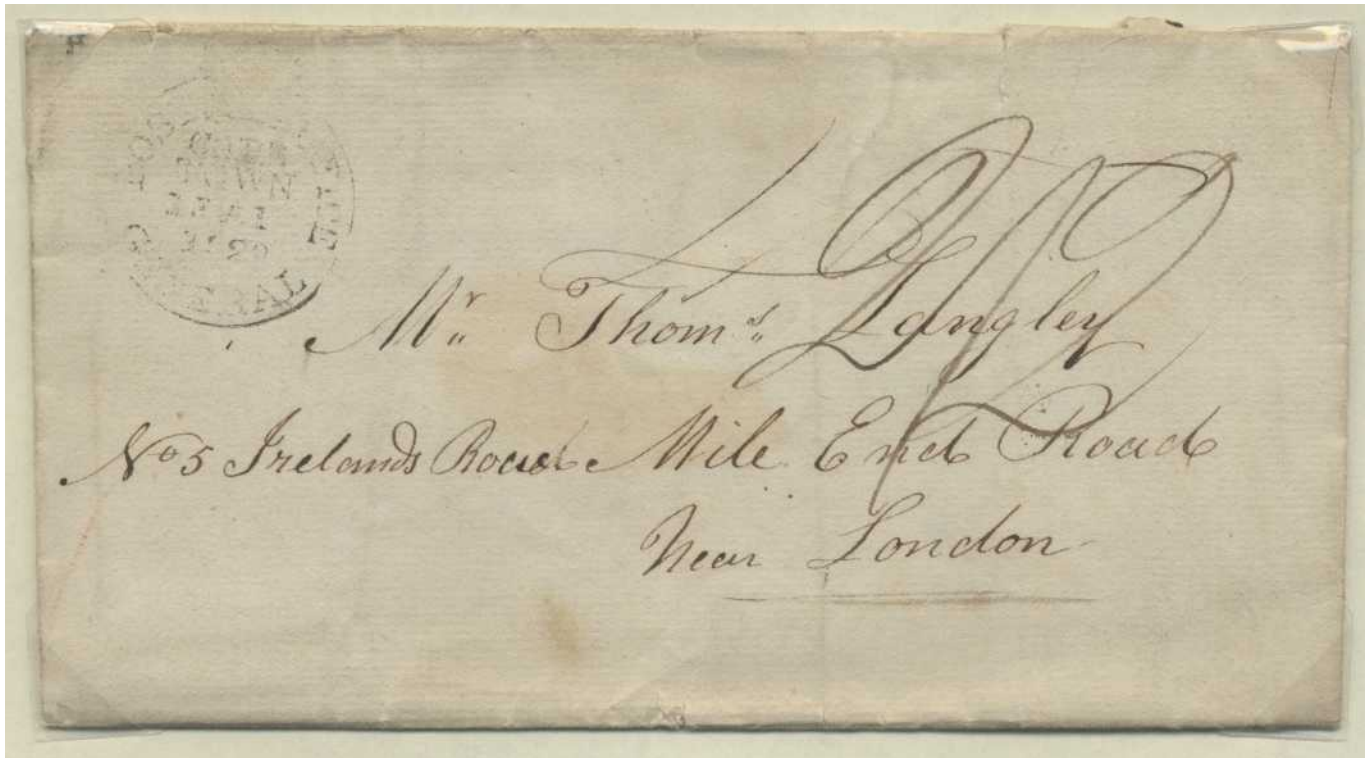
4d. Ship Letter Rate
10d. Inland LetterRate - Weymouth - London.
1sh, 2d. black ms.
Boxed India Letter Weymouth on reverse.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Joseph to Thomas.

1 January 1829

Joseph begs Thomas for a letter of credit to prevent the loss of unspecified property. States Samuel is unwell and they lost 2 shillings to the pound on their last transaction. Apparently their financial woes are unending.



Cape markings:

Second Dated Letter Stamp - JAN 1 - 1829 - Dispatch stamp.

4d. Ship Letter Rate black ms.

London markings:

4d. Ship Letter Rate

1sh.10d. double sheet Inland Letter Rate - Plymouth - London.

2sh.2d.

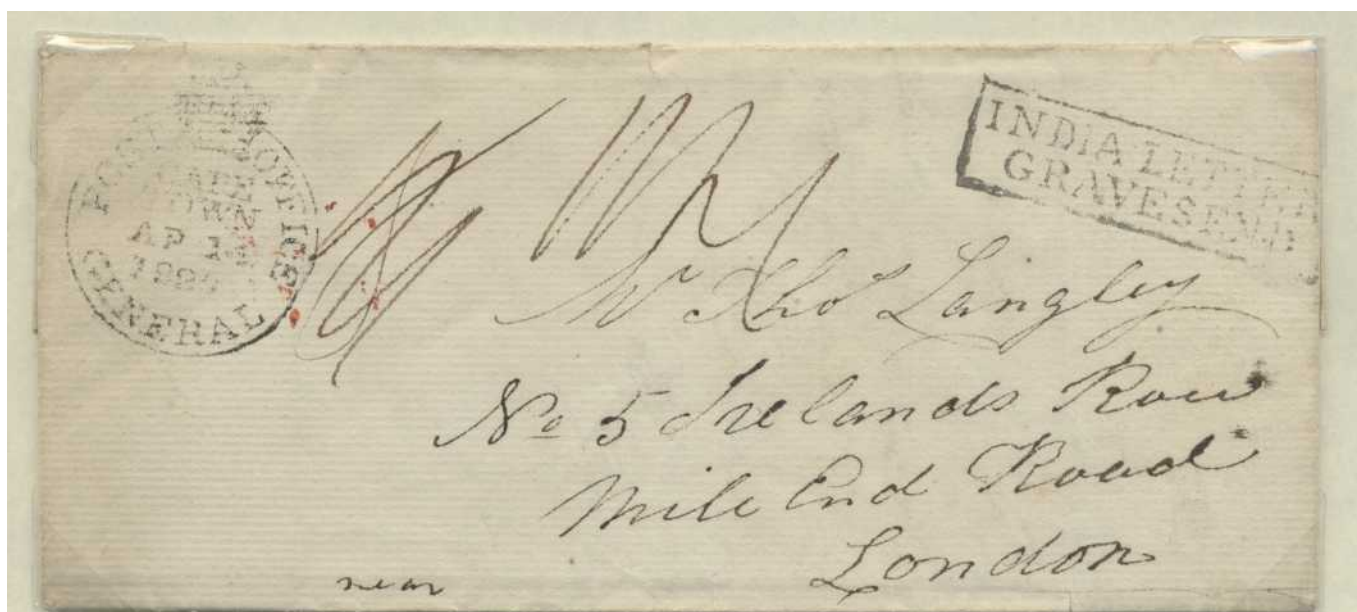
Boxed India Letter Plymouth on reverse.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Samuel to Thomas

10 April 1829

Some of the mystery clears. Samuel writes that he and Joseph have had a charge of £ 275 made in favor of one "Cutting" in error due to shenanigans on the part of Benjamin. Apparently Thomas controls the proceeds from Robert Langley's estate left to Samuel and Joseph. They send Thomas copies of their financial obligations requesting payment but Benjamin continues to thwart them.



Cape markings:

Second Dated Letter Stamp - AP11 1829 - Dispatch stamp.
8d. ms.(deleted) - double sheet Ship Letter Rate of 1826.

London markings:

4d. Ship Letter Rate.
1sh. Double sheet Inland Letter Rate - Gravesend - London.
1sh.4d.
Boxed India Letter Gravesend.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Samuel to Thomas
29 July 1829

Samuel complains that Thomas overcharged the account he maintains for Samuel and Joseph by 575 in settling Cutting's account six years earlier. He says Benjamin called him "deranged" in a letter to Thomas and that Benjamin does not account to him as he has always done to Benjamin. The thorny relationship seems not to improve with time.



Cape markings:

Two impressions of Second Dated Letter Stamp- posted 31 July - dispatched 1 August.

Boxed TO-PAY stamp deleted when 4d. Ship Letter Rate paid.

4d. Ship Letter Rate - red ms.

London markings:

4d. Ship Letter Rate

8d. Inland Letter Rate - Dover - London.

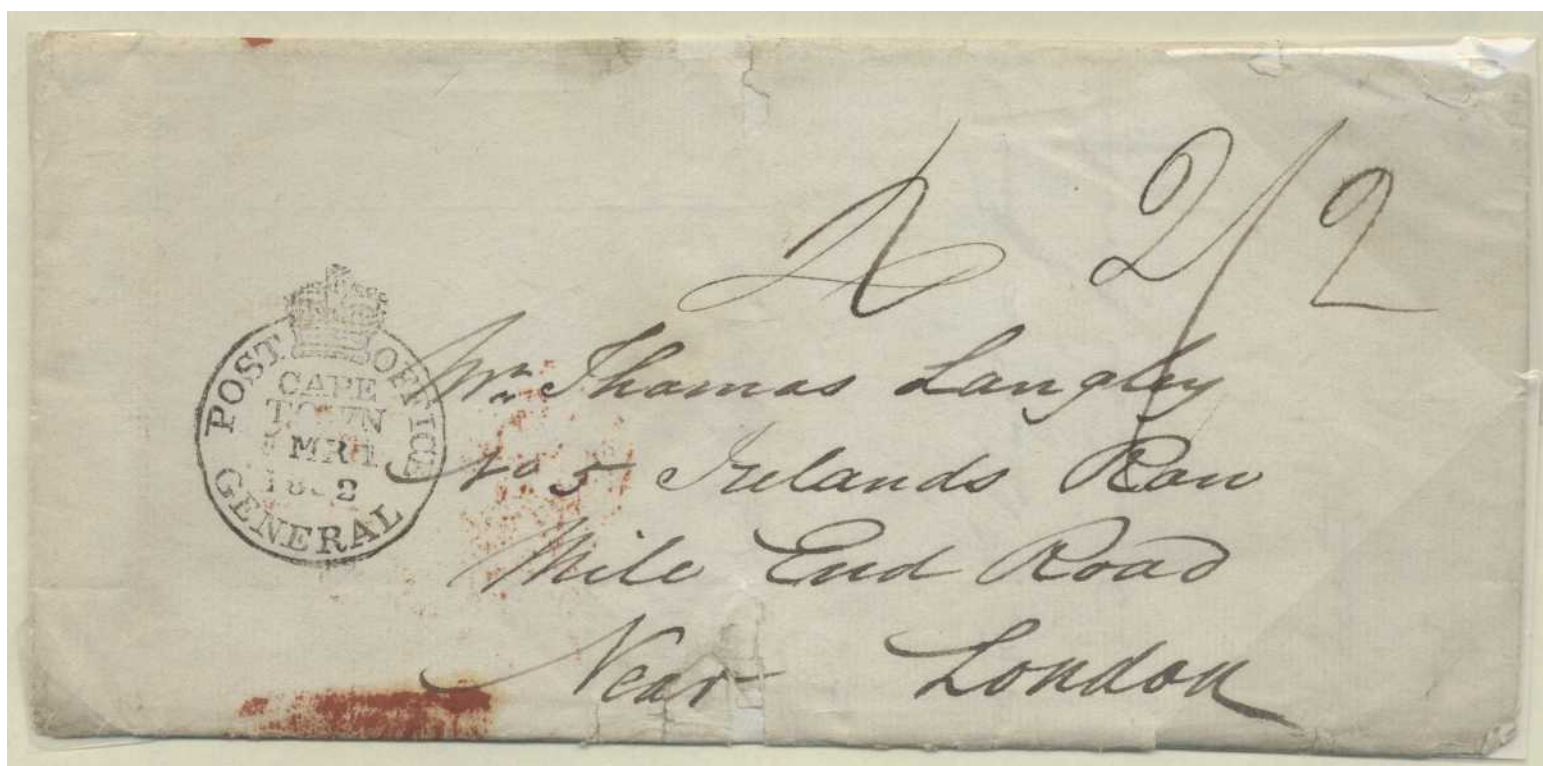
1 sh.

Boxed India Letter Dover on reverse.

Langley Correspondence

Letter from Henry Leath to Thomas
29 February 1832

Mr. Leath tells Thomas that Samuel died on 1 February 1832 having been preceeded in death by Joseph. The two brothers owed Leath a sum of money and Samuel had paid some of it in installments but 25 remained unpaid. Leath pleads that Thomas make good on the debt as he has a large family and little to sustain them. He says he believes Benjamin will honor the debt and adds a post script saying he has recently seen Benjamin who plans to write soon. The resolution of all this is unknown to me but the deaths of Samuel and Joseph end this saga.



Cape markings:

Second Dated Letter Stamp - 1MR 1832

4d. Ship Letter Rate (black ms.) deleted on arrival.

London markings:

4d. India Ship Letter Rate.

1sh.10d.- Double sheet Inland Letter Rate - Dartmouth - London.

2sh.2d.

Boxed India Letter Dartmouth on reverse.